



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



**Clouds of Glory.** Our photographer pointed his lens toward neighboring Bernal Hill one fall afternoon as the fading sun turned clouds into golden mountains.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



**Hangin' with Heather and Bill.** Bill's the senior store dog. He's earned the right to relax where he wants to at the Urban Nest, Heather Bruchs' shop at 3927 24th Street. You want "good dog"? Bill's the model. Stop by and see them this holiday season. Photo by Pamela Gerard

## Voice Vacation Signals 2010's Passing

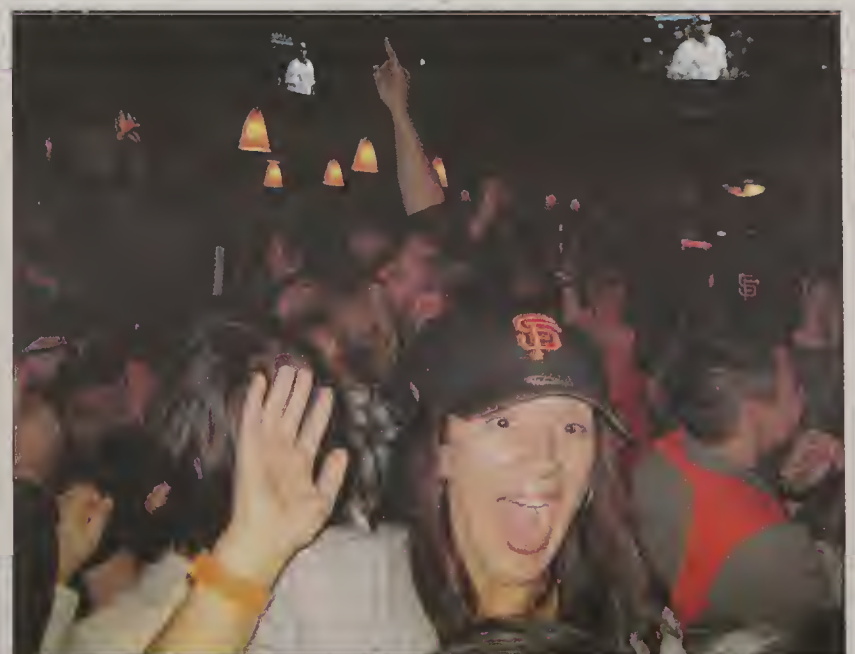
Faithful readers will recall the deal struck 33 years ago in which a motley collection of aspiring and probable journalists decided they would publish 10 of the 12 months in a year. Well, they've kept to that bargain. This is the last edition you'll see until the first week of February 2011. Your deadline for all things editorial is Jan. 15 (that includes Class Ads). For display advertising, you get until Jan. 19. Be of good cheer. Be careful. And be sure you join us next season, we mean year.

—J.T. & S.S.

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE  
www.noevalleyvoice.com  
editor@noevalleyvoice.com



**We Are the Champs!** Public houses such as Noe Valley's own Noe's Bar turned into havens of heaven for local baseball fans (and a great many were born recently) this October, as the Major League's San Francisco Giants captured the ultimate prize. See more on page 15 of this issue.

Photo by Sally Smith

**Bevan Dufty's Farewell Address**

See Page 9



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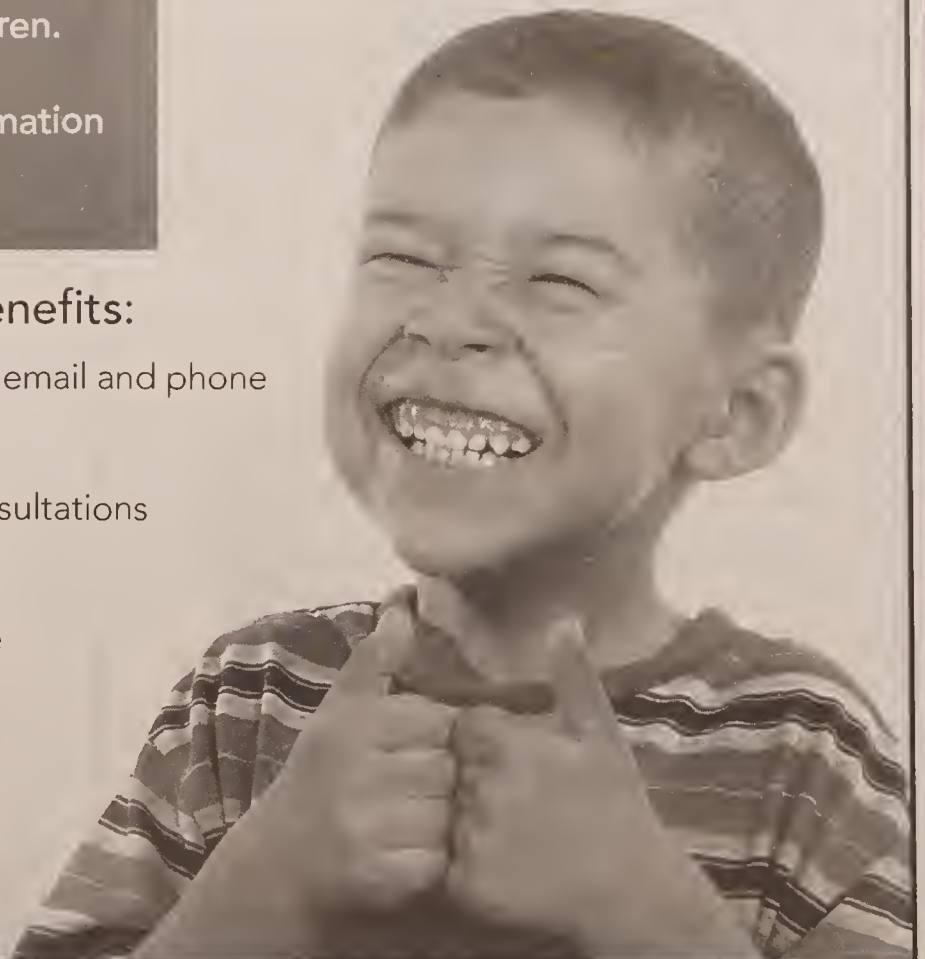
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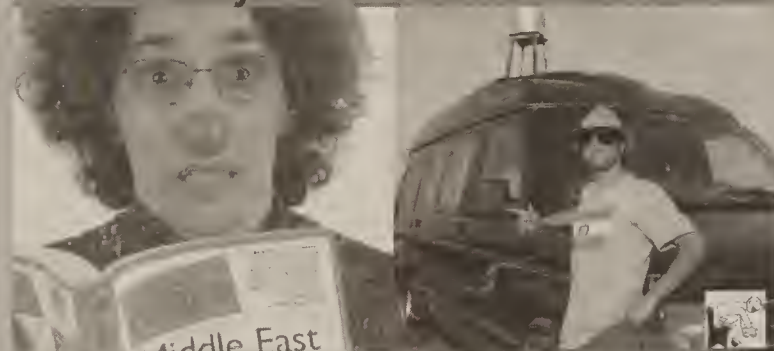
December Holiday Show

**Siddhartha,  
The Bright Path**

December 11, 2010 -  
January 9, 2011



January: Sara Felder's *Out of Sight*  
Dan Hoyle's *The Real Americans*

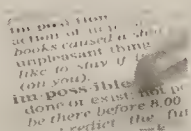


Upcoming

Jeff Greenwald (Jan), Dan Hoyle (Jan), Don Reed (Jan), Sara Felder (Jan), Holly Hughes (Feb), Pidge Meade (Feb), Marga Gomez (Mar), Geoff Hoyle (Mar), Brian Copeland (Apr)

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### 117 Fair Oaks Street



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Offered at \$899,000  
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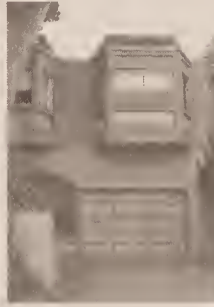
### 182 Lippard Avenue



**Charming 2-story 3BD/1.5BA Edwardian Home.** The traditional floor plan includes a living room, formal dining room, remodeled kitchen, laundry room, 1/2 bath and sun porch on the 1st floor. Mature garden. Close to BART and "downtown" Glen Park.

Offered at \$849,000  
Beth Kershaw (415) 260-2321  
Don Gable (415) 350-3854

### 436 Joost Avenue



**Huge Sunnyside/Glen Park Home.** This immaculately maintained 3BD/2BA home features a large living/dining/kitchen combo on the main level and BIG southern views from two bay windows. Kitchen has newer appliances. Rear yard with large view deck. 2 car parking.

Offered at \$799,000  
Eddie O'Sullivan (415) 378-3120

### 2600 18th Street, #20



**Spacious Media Gulch Loft.** The stylish three-level 2BD/2BA loft includes an abundance of natural light, wood floors, a roof deck with panoramic views, an open floor plan with Twin Peaks views, fireplace and a common area gym.

Offered at \$799,000  
Michelle Long (415) 321-4227

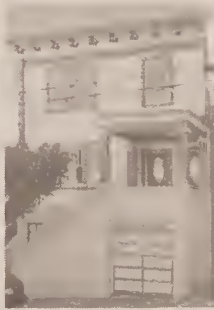
### 172 Denslowe



**Wonderful Detached Split Lakeside Home.** 3BD/2BA on 3 levels. Main level has large living room with fireplace and formal dining room with hardwood floors. French doors lead to patio and yard. Close to Lakeside Village shops & Stonestown Galleria.

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### 234 Ney Street



**Spacious & Charming 4BD/2BA Home** features formal dining & living rooms, eat-in kitchen, and den/library with its own mini deck overlooking a sunny, vibrant yard & garden. 4th bedroom can also be used for an office, studio or playroom. 2 car garage & large basement.

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### 137 Faith Street



**2BD/1BA Victorian Home with a Charming Doll House Cottage in the Back.** The kitchen, complete with Wolfie range, connects to an open dining/living space. Views of the bay. Tucked away in Bernal Heights, just under the Faith stairway. A must see!

Offered at \$599,000  
Kilby Stenkamp (415) 321-4398

Noe Valley Office Agents: We'd be delighted to talk to you about properties in this neighborhood!



John Barnette



Don Gable



Jamie Howell



Ginger Karels



Tasneem Karimbhai



Beth Kershaw



Tal Klein



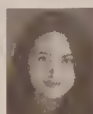
Debra Lee



Michelle Long



Robert Mayer



Betty Michael



Eddie O'Sullivan



Jeny Smith



Kilby Stenkamp



Michael Tekulsky



Lisa Weindorf



Tim Woloshyn



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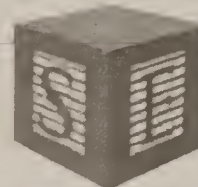
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Bella Nemirovsky  
Feb. 15, 1950 – Sept. 14, 2010

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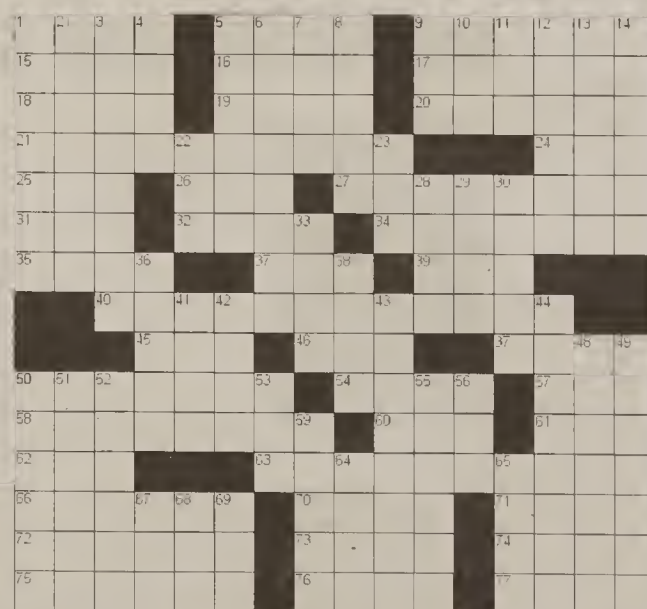
## THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

### Front and Back

Using 40-Across  
and taking a hint  
from the title of this  
puzzle, make eight  
new two-word  
phrases from the  
starred entries.

#### ACROSS

1. "Yeah, sure!"
5. Nine hundred two
9. Most soap operas
15. Order at Casa Mexicana
16. Greet the villain
17. Harem guard
18. "Besides that..."
19. Cal rivals to the south
20. Hang in there
21. \*Company stationery
24. Curly tormentor
25. "\_\_\_ Man Answers" (1962 flick starring 9-Down)
26. "Rocks" at Noe's Bar
27. \*Spray a field from a plane
31. "Stop the cameras!"
32. "Say it isn't so!"
34. Levi of Levi's fame
35. Arrived feet-first, at AT&T Park
37. Finale
39. Top rating, often
40. Noe Valley bookstore
45. Stimp's TV pal
46. Musical Yoko
47. Women's fitness magazine
50. Lord's Prayer phrase before "as it is in heaven"
54. Fitzgerald of jazz
57. Architect I.M. \_\_\_
58. \*Musical offering at 40-Across
60. "\_\_\_ the ramparts



we watched..."

61. Intraoffice PC hookup
62. Computer monitor, for short
63. \*Advance aggressively, as a rhino
66. Girlfriends in the Mission
70. Opera solo
71. In-your-face problem?
72. Seldom
73. Coworker of Lane and Olsen
74. Immodest look
75. Hibernates
76. "Othello" schemer
77. Bookie's calculation

#### DOWN

1. Slanted letters
2. Ominous, as a look
3. Over-the-top happy
4. Warning sound from the J

5. Where the J runs
6. "Hawaii" author
7. "... here on Gilligan's \_\_\_"
8. Asimov or Newton
9. Actress Sandra
10. Operate
11. "In addition, ..."
12. Waikiki wear
13. Unlike this entry
14. Bed linens
22. Middle three vowels
23. A.M.A. members
28. "Beetle Bailey" bulldog
29. Earlier: Abbr.
30. DiCaprio's Romeo and Juliet co-star Claire
33. Unfooled by
36. Hip-hopper's topper
38. Fully cooked
41. Action word
42. Word beginning that may mean "inner" or "insect"

43. Occasional sunbather's goal
44. Supplanted
48. Erudite
49. "\_\_\_ keepers..."
50. Hollywood statues
51. Everyday
52. Full
53. Ad \_\_\_ committee
55. Smooth, musically (Johnny Mathis hit)
59. Like Dockers, often
64. It's figured in square feet
65. Angel topper
67. "Golly!"
68. European peak
69. The "S" in CBS: Abbr.

Solution on Page 41

NOTE: See the Noe Valley Voice Crossword, including all past puzzles, at [www.no valleyvoice.com](http://www.no valleyvoice.com).





## THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

P.O. Box 460249  
San Francisco, CA 94146  
www.noevalleyvoice.com

The Noe Valley Voice is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity, on or before the first Friday of the month. Subscriptions are available at \$30 per year (\$25 for seniors) by writing to the above address.

The Voice welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Website: www.noevalleyvoice.com

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Class Ads: See Page 43

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Editorial/Class Ad Deadline: Jan. 15, 2011

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# LETTERS

## New Crop of Reading Partners Editor:

I wanted to thank you for the great article about Reading Partners in the November issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* ["Tutors Needed at Alvarado," by Heather World]. I have had seven new people come in to volunteer at Alvarado School this week and almost all of them told me they heard about the program through the newspaper. This is especially exciting because it means I will get to enroll at least four more students this week! Thank you again.

Glennis Coursey, Site Coordinator  
Reading Partners  
Alvarado Elementary School

*Editor's Note: To find out more about Reading Partners' tutoring program, email volunteer@readingpartners.org.*

## Puffing in Parklets

Yesterday I was taking a stroll down 24th Street with my aunt and baby. We wanted to stop and have tea at the little parklet outside Martha & Bros., but to my dismay the entire area had been taken over by cigarette smoke. There were two smokers at tables on opposite sides of the parklet invading the entire area with noxious fumes. So we passed by. Later in the afternoon, I walked by the same area and saw other smokers puffing away in the same parklet.

I am dismayed that we have spent valuable community resources in order to create an environment that is not only unsafe to our health and bad for the environment, but that also detracts from the beauty of our community. I urge Martha & Bros.,

## In Memory of Phillip Wald

Phillip L. Wald, born May 22, 1935, died peacefully in his home on Noc Street on Oct. 15, 2010. Phillip had a reputation of coming across as a bit frank, sometimes brusque and always opinionated. But if a person took the time to scratch Phillip's rough exterior, they found a challenging, witty, and generous person.

Some called him a colorful Noe Valley character. For example, his house was painted a remarkably happy lavender and its flower boxes were overflowing year-round. For years, you may have seen him driving around the neighborhood in a yellow VW bug with a happy face painted on the front. When Phillip took you out in that car, it felt like you were in a parade with children and adults waving, pointing, and smiling.

Phillip came from Louisville, Kentucky. After a stint in the Air Force he spent time in Washington, D.C., and coastal Florida, before landing in Noe Valley, where he lived for 32 years. He is survived by his loving partner, David Barker, and many dear friends.

If you want to do something in his memory, he would tell you to speak your mind. And if you want to donate to a good cause, he would propose giving time and/or money to a local gay youth group.

—Mary Margaret



the city, and community leaders to end the smoking in the parklets and create a truly community-friendly space that is safe for all to enjoy.

Chattanooga Street resident  
Name withheld by request

## Where's Matt Cain?

Editor:

Here's a quote from the Rumors Behind the News column in the September 2009 *Noe Valley Voice*:

Our attempts to reach [San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt] Cain were unsuccessful, and it appears we will

have to wait to interview the hometown boy until after the team wins the World Series.

It would appear that now is the time.

David Olmeijer

*Dear David: Even before receiving your note, we began calling the Giants and pestering our pals in the media to get a message to Matt. We hope he'll speak to us soon. Till then, we ask our readers to keep wearing their caps, sweatshirts, and thongs—that may bring us good luck.*

## Where's the Voice?

Editor:

I truly enjoy reading the *Noe Valley Voice*. Where is it possible to find a copy of the current issue? I mentioned to a friend who used to live in Noe Valley what a great neighborhood paper we have, and she would like a copy. Thank you very much.

Lupe Arabolos

*Thanks for the compliment. We try to keep the newsstand Good News at 3920 24th Street stocked throughout the month. But email us at editor@noevalleyvoice.com if you're having trouble finding an issue. Also, subscriptions are available at a cost of \$30 per year (\$25 for seniors). Send a check to the Noe Valley Voice, P.O. Box 460249, San Francisco, CA 94146.*



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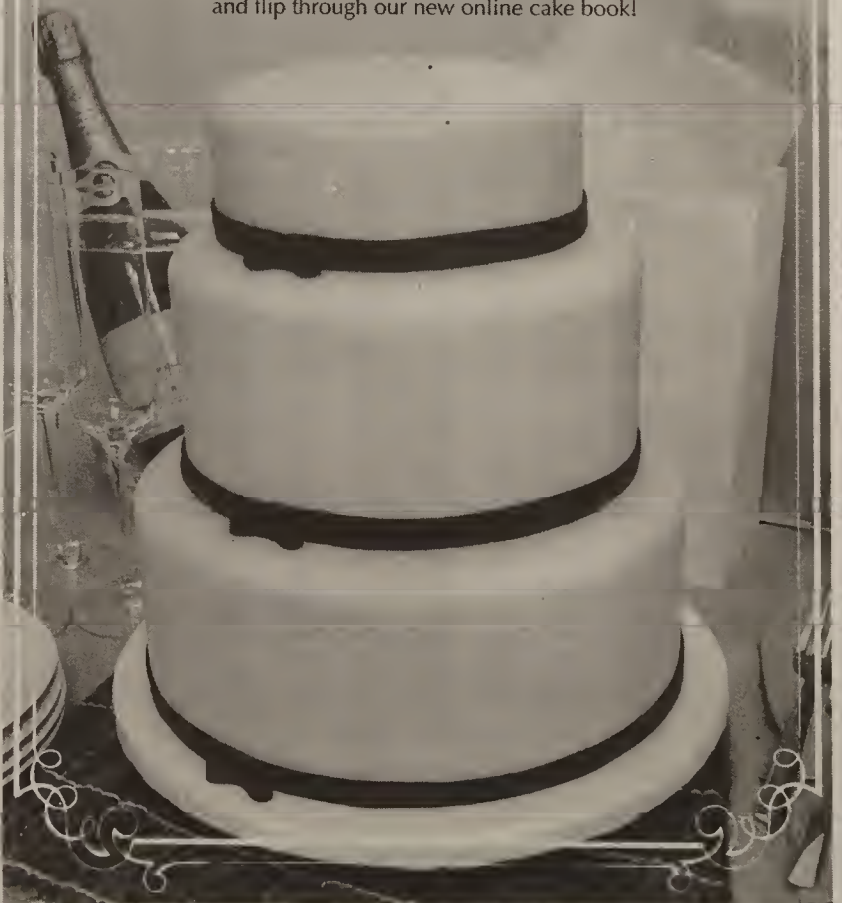


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## A Supervisor to Remember

# Bevan Dufty Says Farewell to District 8

By Corrie M. Anders

In early January, Bevan Dufty will walk out of City Hall Room 268 for the last time as Noe Valley's representative on the Board of Supervisors.

He has served the maximum two terms as District 8 supervisor, and he has a new political goal: to become mayor of San Francisco.

Wearing a pea coat, jeans, and a blue plaid shirt with open collar, Dufty was casual and relaxed the day before Thanksgiving as he talked with the *Voice* about his eight years in office.

Occasionally interrupted by his precocious aide-de-camp, 4-year-old daughter Sidney, Dufty spoke for more than an hour about the highs and lows of his tenure and his hopes to succeed Gavin Newsom (or Newsom's stand-in) in November.

The 55-year-old political moderate displayed both humor and gravitas during the wide-ranging Q&A. His comments have been edited slightly for brevity and clarity.

**NVV:** You seem so relaxed. Are you happy to be passing on the baton after eight years?

**Dufty:** (Laughter) I think I've been prepared for this transition. Consistently I've said that this has been the job of a lifetime, having worked behind the scenes in politics all my life. So I've enjoyed it. But I've really been at peace that this is an eight-year deal. I think part of it is the fact that I'm running for mayor and I'm looking to the future.

**NVV:** After two terms in office, what do you consider your biggest accomplishments?

**Dufty:** From a neighborhood standpoint, I'm especially proud of the creation of the Noe Valley Community Benefit District [a special tax district supplementing city services, established in 2006]. I feel it has transformed how 24th Street feels to people. The look and feel of it are very different. I beam when I hear people going down 24th Street saying they think it's the nicest neighborhood commercial district in the city. And I hear that a lot. It's the envy of a lot of neighborhoods. I think the CBD has been very important.

The other aspect has been shepherding renovation projects. The Noe Valley Library, the Upper Noe Rec Center, and Noe Courts are three projects that I really wrapped my hands around. They were all very challenging in their own way. Those are the things from a neighborhood standpoint that I'm the most proud of.

Probably the biggest big-picture thing would be the health-care legislation, the health-care access program [Healthy San Francisco]. I'm very proud of that. I was the eighth vote that put it over the top and made it a reality. Also working with Tom Ammann on Prop. H, which is putting city money, about \$30 million this year, into our public schools.

**NVV:** What were your happiest moments as supervisor?

**Dufty:** I'm happy every day. I'm happy to wake up, and my responsibility has been to make the city a better place for people. I've loved it. I just love people complaining. I love people yelling at me and telling me that I've got to do a better job. I've loved all aspects of it. I've had a really, really good time.



Supervisor Bevan Dufty has enjoyed his eight years in the rough-and-tumble world of San Francisco politics, so much so that he's set his sights on the mayor's office. Photo by Beverly Sharp

**NVV:** What were your biggest challenges?

**Dufty:** I think the division on the board, that for my entire eight years there's been a seven-four split. I've kind of been the mover on the board. There's been a strong three moderate members on the board, seven sort of progressive members, and generally if it's a controversial issue, I've got to look at it and figure out, am I going to be part of sustaining the mayor's veto on a piece of legislation or am I going to be part of overriding the veto. Sometimes there are issues I feel passionately about, no question about it. Sometimes there are issues I'm drawn into, and just by virtue of the fact I've become the deciding vote it's a bigger deal. If I'm hocking the alcohol tax, I'm going to get beat up by it. If I'm going to go with the incentive for healthier meals with "happier meals" [requiring more nutritional content], I'm going to have to explain that as well.

From a neighborhood standpoint, I would say the thing that is most troubling to me has been the inability to move Nutraceutical and Real Food to do something [about their vacant storefront on 24th Street]. So that has been really confounding to me. It'll be eight years next August. I call all the time. It's not a legacy that I really want, but I think it speaks more to them than it does to me.

**NVV:** Every politician has goals that may not be met. What did you fail to achieve?

**Dufty:** My theme when I ran for supervisor was all about the neighborhood. I think I have really tried to be that person. I haven't succeeded every time a constituent brought me something. I recently finished at the top of a poll by the Chamber of Commerce, of the 11 supervisors. They polled our respective districts, and I had the highest favorability, 64 percent, and I am pleased. I'm pleased that as I leave this office my constituents still appreciate and seem to understand and support the approach I've taken.

There are a lot of great laws on the books in San Francisco. The problem isn't putting good laws on the books. The problem is in them being real for people. You can say you're a transit-first city, but if you're waiting 25 minutes for the J, it's not a transit-first experience. For me, it's been about rationalizing what that experience is, and recognizing how expensive San Francisco is to live in, and how much I want families to stay here. I want people who have faced disadvantage, whether through personal challenges like substance abuse or homelessness, or whether they're coming up from poverty, to have opportunity in this city and for it to be meaningful. That's where my focus is—making this real and making it work for as many people as possible.

**NVV:** What were your worst moments as supervisor?

**Dufty:** I've had a few circumstances. There was the death of a police officer, Jon Cook, who died [in June 2002] when they were responding to an assailant who was stabbing a woman and they lost control of their vehicle and crashed into 17th and Dolores and the officer died. That was very tragic to me. There's another police officer at Mission Station, and he was hit and lost his leg. So I visited with him and was involved in enabling him to come back to active duty with a prosthesis. I was proud of my relationship with him.

Certainly the shooting of nine people [who were wounded when a gunman opened fire during the 2006 Halloween Party in the Castro]. I'm reasonably well known at the emergency room at General Hospital. I go there more often than not when circumstances happen. We had a fatal shooting at Gay Pride [in June] and two people were injured. So I was at the emergency room there. Those were tough circumstances.

**NVV:** What will you miss most about your time as supervisor?

**Dufty:** The connection I feel to the city, but especially to my district, and just the way I can walk down the street and I can talk about the things I've done with different businesses. People will approach me on the street and talk about things we've done together or places we've been together. I love that feeling of connectiveness. I think Noe Valley is a neighborhood about relationships.

## *"People in Noe Valley really embraced me around having a child."*

There's a very strong community around St. Philip's, for example, and I've been blessed to be really embraced, whether I'm at the St. Philip's festival or at the school dinner or going to services. I really have felt so fortunate that that community embraced me, as has the younger, high-tech crowd. There's the young family crowd. There are the Yennes, for example [Carol and Bill Yenne], to whom I'm extremely close.

People in Noe Valley really embraced me around having a child. I think it was something I've always wanted to have happen in my life. And it came very late in my life. I was 51.

There are so many businesses in Noe Valley. For many years my manicurist had a business, Rolling Nails on 24th Street. The first restaurant that Sidney ever went to was Joe's on 24th Street. My pediatrician, Dr. [James] Schwanke, is there.

**NVV:** You purchased a multi-unit flat on Waller Street in the lower Haight.

**Dufty:** I've been happy there.

**NVV:** Do you regret not moving into family-friendly Noe Valley?

**Dufty:** Oh, I bid as many times as I could! I probably lost six bids on places in Noe Valley. The irony is, and people would probably tell me not to be honest about this, but the first week [in the Haight] my car was broken into. Her stroller and car seat were gone. I said okay, I grew up in New York City. I can handle anything.... So the school district this past year totally changed its enrollment criteria. It has been maddening for so many families—they have no idea where they are going to go. I live in a census tract that is so underperforming that Sidney has an excellent chance of being able to go to McKinley, Milk, or Rooftop [better-quality schools], for example—nothing that I could ever have envisioned three years ago when this was the only place I could not get outbid on. I had to strip it down and build it back up. But three years later I could not be happier to live on that corner, because I'm in pretty good standing that she is going to be able to go to a good public school.

**NVV:** What did you learn about Noe Valley that surprised you?

**Dufty:** There are real differences between the Castro and Noe Valley. In the Castro, no matter what miracle I could perform, the next week I could be the goat. It's just, what have you done for me lately. It's a very volatile, very combustible environment, and I came to accept that.

And in Noe Valley over a period of time I just felt like part of a family, even when I had rough spots, and certainly the proposed trial closure of 24th and Noe was a rough spot. Initially, when I did my first walk-through and I saw all these thumbs-down signs, I looked around and said, Oh, I don't know about this one. I don't think [the Noe Street closure] is going to work. And the advocacy neighbors said you can't stop the process, we want to have the opportunity to try and do our public process.

[In the Castro] you could throw a Molotov cocktail in the middle of Market and Castro and I would say, "Oh, it's fireworks." I was used to it. But here it was Noe Valley. I was not used to that level of acrimony. So I was very protective, and I think in a way [the plaza advocates] were right. But then we got into the process, and it was not going to go well. And so some of the advocates, they're angry at me, and some of the meetings were a little more raucous than they needed to be.

**NVV:** You even threatened to call the police.

**Dufty:** I'm on YouTube saying, "You don't really want me to have to call the police in Noe Valley." (laughter)

But one of the great things that came out of the first meeting was that someone said, "Hey, what about the [Noe Valley Ministry] parking lot? What can we do with the parking lot?" To me, that's a silver lining. And if you do a good job, even in the most contentious situations, there are kernels of opportunity, there are kernels of truth on all sides of an issue. And if you can piece that together and go forward and do something, I think you can make things happen.

And I'm very committed to the [proposed Noe Valley] Town Square.

**NVV:** Is the neighborhood becoming more moderate or more progressive?





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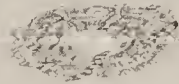
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### WHO TO CALL AT CITY HALL

SEA 1/2/2011

City Information Line	311
Aggressive Panhandling	415-553-0123
Burned-Out Streetlights	Street Lighting and Repair 415-554-0730
Detox	Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP) 415-431-7400
District 8 Supervisor	Bevan Dufty 415-554-6968
Graffiti/Tree Removal	415-695-2017
Hazardous Waste Disposal/Free Pickup	Mattresses, Appliances 415-330-1300
Homeless Services	Urgent Care Clinic 415-355-7400
Lost or Injured Animals	Animal Care and Control 415-554-6364
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services	www.sfgov.org/mons 415-554-7111
NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams)	415-558-3456
Parking Enforcement	DPT Dispatch 415-553-1200
Potholes	potholes@sfdpw.org 415-695-2100
Recycling	415-554-7329
Street Signs, Damaged or Missing	415-554-9780
Street-sweeping	415-554-6926
Traffic Signals Out	415-550-2736
Tree Planting	415-554-6700
24th St. Community Benefit District (CBD) Dispatch	Ron Atwood 415-509-1097
Utility Undergrounding (DPW)	undergrounding@sfgov.org 415-554-6167

"A liberal is a man too broadminded to take his own side in a quarrel."  
—ROBERT FROST, POET (1874-1963)



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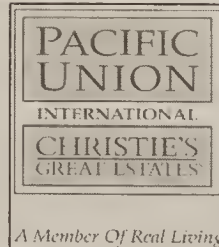
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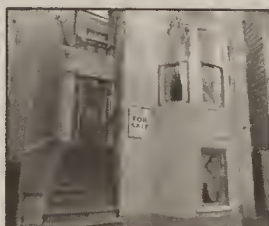
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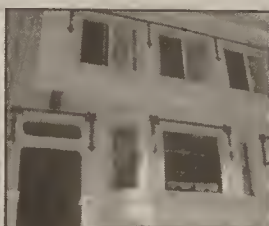
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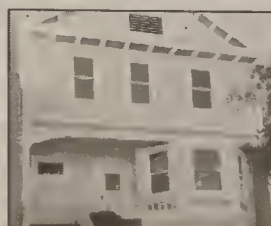
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## Dufty Reflects on 'Job of a Lifetime'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

**Dufty:** People step up to the plate. What I love about Peter Gabel is he took this real untenable situation with Real Food, and people came together and created the Farmers Market. And in this world in which we're so disconnected because we're connected online, here is something that people just go to on Saturdays. And they love it. So many people during the campaign for my successor would tell about meeting different candidates at the town square, at the market. I thought that was great. I thought that is community building, and to them I take my hat off.

I think there is a lot of progressive sentiment. But I think it is tempered by practicality. And I think that is what I really appreciate. It's not just to say we're for these things, but it's to say we're for things and we want it to actually happen. And I think there is a pragmatism around Noe Valley that I appreciate, because I think there are things that fly out of city government that aren't realistic.

You need business. You just can't rail against downtown and say how awful downtown is.

That's Noe Valley to me. They want the shuttle buses for Google and Apple because they realize how many cars are being taken off the street, how improved people's quality of life is when they aren't spending three hours a day driving but can be working and doing other constructive things. And that's what I've always appreciated about the neighborhood.

*"I have no ambition to ever seek office other than the mayorship. Bevan is done at that point."*

**NVV:** What's your advice for your successor, Scott Wiener?

**Dufty:** I don't think Scott needs a lot of advice. He ran a very strong campaign. He clearly touched people throughout the district. He had a very compelling and convincing victory in that race.

I mostly have told him how much he'll enjoy the job and how much fun he can have. I'm going to have detailed advice about who the people are in city government who can really make magic. I've always acknowledged that while I'm credited as being a magician, I'm not always the one who's making the magic happen. So when graffiti needs to be painted out or there's a problem tree that needs to be addressed, it's my colleagues in the city family [who make it work].

**NVV:** Who would you like to see as interim mayor?

**Dufty:** Mike Hennessey, the sheriff. He'd be my number one choice. Mike Hennessey has been our elected sheriff for 30 years. He's been elected eight times city-wide. He's planning on retiring next year in 2012. I think it'd be a great capstone on his career. I respect the sentiment on the part of the progressive majority on the board. They'd like to have someone progressive in this job. I view Mike that way. I don't think there is any sheriff in the country that runs a more diverse department than he does. Or a department that's really more about helping people transform their lives and less about just incarcerating people. And from an emergency public safety standpoint, he'd be stellar. He could walk into the job and absolutely



Supervisor Bevan Dufty and 4-year-old daughter Sidney go over their final agenda as they pack up their toys and legislative mementos at City Hall.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

know what to do if something were to unfortunately happen to our city. And I think that's a reality you have to face.

I think Ed Harrington of the PUC also would be excellent. I'm looking to see someone come in that maybe can help us make changes because they're not looking to run for the job.

**NVV:** You've announced your candidacy for next fall. Why would you want to be mayor at a time when the city is in financial distress that may last several years?

**Dufty:** The magic is in growing the economy. Where I think Gavin has done well is in bringing corporate headquarters here. He has tried to balance out pushing back on new taxes. I opposed most of the revenue measures that were on the ballot. I was opposed to the increase in the hotel tax. There have been a number of those types of increases that I did see as job killers. I thought the alcohol tax was just going to immediately result in a number of people either losing their employment or losing shifts at restaurants and bars and other establishments.

In looking at the big picture and trying to make our city as business-friendly as possible, both for larger businesses and small business, where the bulk of the jobs are, Gavin's done a good job. One of the fun things about running for mayor is it's easy to be critical, but the more you delve into it, to figure out what you would do, it's helped me appreciate [Newsom's position], and part of that has changed our relationship where I can go and say, "Wow, I really like what you've done with this." I've co-sponsored a number of his stimulus measures that have sought to accelerate development projects, [by having] developers pay fees at the end of a project when they have a certificate of occupancy. In other things, I've had a meeting of the minds, so to speak, with him.

**NVV:** What would be your goals as mayor?

**Dufty:** The most important goal is that people want someone who is going to run the city. I have no ambition to ever seek office other than the mayorship. Bevan is done at that point.

The Bay Area is home to some of the most vibrant and vital businesses in the world. These are startups of less than a dozen people, and these are large companies such as Apple and Google and Kaiser. I think Kaiser is a very forward-thinking company. Wells Fargo is a company that is tremendous in terms of its corporate citizenship. We have great examples out there, and I believe the city can be like that. We can be an organization that's on message, on mission, and deliver quality service and still be open to criticism from the public. It's not going to be nirvana. But for me, I believe the so-

lutions to the city's problems lie within our city.

I really want to manage and lead this city. That's what my objective is, and to be a cheerleader for the great things that are happening in this city. To leverage our international presence and to have vibrant sister city relationships, whether it's with Barcelona or Sydney, that are staking our role in the world in terms of what we represent culturally, what we represent politically, and what we represent as a model of diversity and inclusion.

**NVV:** If you win, you'd become San Francisco's first "out" gay mayor.

**Dufty:** Unless somebody surprises me (laughter). I hope they don't.

I do feel that I need to earn this. I need to go everywhere from the Outer Sunset to Russian Hill to China Basin to the Cliff House, and I need to demonstrate to people that as a gay man in San Francisco I'm about everything in the city. I don't want to be a great gay mayor. I want to be a great mayor.

**NVV:** Politics can be extremely stressful. What do you do to relax?

**Dufty:** I still run with the Front Runners on Saturday morning. Front Runners is an LGBT running club, and I've been a member since 1982, and most Saturdays I have Sidney in a jog stroller. So it's one of my mainstays. I'm not as good about going to the gym as I used to be. I still go out dancing. I love to go out....

**NVV:** Do you currently have a partner?

**Dufty:** No. People say, how do you have room to date? I say Bill Cosby taught me you're never too full for Jell-O. I'm never too busy to pay attention to a handsome man. I've dated a bit. It's funny because for so much of my life I was in a very stable relationship. That really defined me a lot...it was one of the things I was proudest of. It's not so much right now. I've been more single than not. But I have fun.

**NVV:** How do you plan to pay the bills now that you'll no longer have your supervisor's salary? Do you have a job lined up?

**Dufty:** Actually, I'm going to retire from the city. I've worked for 18 years, and some years ago I purchased back my congressional years. So I have 28 years in the retirement system. (Dufty worked for Democratic Reps. Shirley Chisholm of New York and Julian Dixon of Los Angeles.)

**NVV:** In leaving office, what would you like to say to your constituents?

**Dufty:** Thanks. It's been an incredible ride. I've enjoyed this job every minute. I will always be grateful. No matter what, my cell phone number is still the same. You can stop me on the street and I'll promise to do my best to make the city work for you. No matter whether I'm citizen Dufty or Mayor Bevan, I'm yours. ■

## Supervisor-Elect Scott Wiener Takes the Reins

It will be a hard act to follow, but yes, we do have a winner in the four-way race to succeed Supervisor Bevan Dufty.

Forty-year-old Castro District resident Scott Wiener defeated Atty. Rafael Mandelman, assistant District Attorney Rebecca Prozan, and businessman Bill Hemenger after coasting to a second-round, ranked-choice victory in the Nov. 2 election.

In the final Department of Elections tally, Wiener garnered 18,239 votes, or 55.4 percent, to best first runner-up Mandelman, who wound up with 14,687 votes, or 44.6 percent. (For first-round voting results, see *Runners*, page 49.)

Refreshed after a weeklong, post-election vacation in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Wiener said he was elated about his victory and what it portends for his constituents in Noe Valley, the Castro, Glen Park, Diamond Heights, and other neighborhoods in District 8.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work on so many different issues that are important to the community I care about," said Wiener, who will resign his position as a deputy city attorney on Jan. 8, the day he'll be sworn in as supervisor.

Wiener said he was busy trading views with Noe Valley and other neighborhood residents and assembling a staff for his new City Hall address.

Without offering too many specifics, he said his local concerns included creation of a town square on 24th Street, improving the J-Church Muni line, and

calming the "mini-freeway" traffic along San Jose Avenue on the southern edge of Noe Valley.

The site for the proposed town square is a parking lot that could be turned into a home for the Noe Valley Farmers Market and other community events. The city would need to provide funds to purchase the multimillion-dollar property from its owner, the Noe Valley Ministry.

Wiener said he would make sure that his office "showed leadership in working hand-in-hand with folks in the neighborhood to move that project forward, and do what I need to make that a reality."

Wiener also said he planned to meet soon with residents, merchants, the Friends of Noe Valley, and the Noe Valley Association (the 24th Street community benefit district) to "talk about what the city can provide to make 24th Street more walkable and what we can do about some of the traffic issues on 24th Street."

Public transit will also be on his radar.

"I will work hard and put pressure on Muni to make sure Muni is doing what it needs to do to make the J-Church a better line," he said.

Until then, Wiener invites the neighborhood to join him, Mayor Newsom, and other city officials at a City Hall Open House on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2 to 5 p.m. The party—in Room 268, Bevan Dufty's office—will feature music and holiday treats.

—Corrie M. Anders



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Christmas Carols: 9:30 p.m.  
Evening Mass: 10:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25 *Mass of the Lord's Nativity*

Mass: 9:30 a.m.

#### December 26, Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.

#### January 2, Sunday *Epiphany of the Lord*

Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

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#### Christmas Eve Masses

FRIDAY, DEC. 24  
4:30 pm — Family Mass with Children's Choir  
8:00 pm — Mass in English with Adult Choir  
12:00 Midnight – Bilingual Mass with Adult Choir

#### Christmas Day Masses

SATURDAY, DEC. 25  
8:00 am, 9:15 am, and 5:00 pm  
There will be no 10:45 or 12:15 pm Mass on December 25

#### New Year's Day Mass

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#### December 12, Advent Three Taize: Singing, Music, Silence, Prayer

#### December 19, Advent Four Preparation for the Journey

#### December 26 Singing Our Joy, A Hymn Service

#### January 2 Festive and Joyful Blessing and Farewell Our final service in this space!

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31, 7 p.m.  
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## City Guides Opens Eyes in Noe Valley

By Erica Reder

On a recent Sunday afternoon, nine people gathered at the Noe Valley Library to take a San Francisco City Guides tour of the neighborhood. For the next two hours, guide Judy Stevens led the group on a walking introduction to the area's architecture and history. By the end of the walk, participants could identify the three kinds of Victorian houses in Noe Valley, and point out the home of the West Coast's first car. Another band of local trivia buffs created, courtesy of San Francisco City Guides.

The nonprofit offers free walking tours of San Francisco 360 days a year, covering over 70 itineraries throughout the city. "Noe Valley: A Village Within the City" has been offered since 2008, when experienced guides Susan Walsh and Eileen Keremitsis put together a tour of a neighborhood they knew well.

"I think it's a great community and so full of beautiful Victorian homes," says Walsh, a Noe Valley resident. She coordinates the twice-monthly tours, which follow Keremitsis' original script.

Keremitsis wrote with a local audience in mind. "I assumed originally that the walk would appeal primarily to Noe Valley residents," Keremitsis explains. This turned out not to be the case. Most groups attract a sizable share of out-of-towners. (Sunday's tour included visitors from as far away as Connecticut.) Still, the walk retains Keremitsis' original purpose.

"I wanted to give people some clues as to how they could find out about their own neighborhood, their own block," she says. "What does a peaked roof tell you? A flat roof? I wanted people to get some clues about when their neighborhood was constructed."

The history-through-architecture approach figured prominently on Sunday's tour, which covered roughly 20 blocks of slightly hilly terrain. Stevens gave an overview of the neighborhood's major styles and builders before stopping every block or so to point out examples of each. On the corner of Jersey and Diamond streets, participants learned that Queen Anne houses often feature towers and peaked roofs. At Castro and Clipper, they encountered façades with builder Fernando Nelson's donut-shaped details.

The group also saw what Stevens calls Noe Valley's most unique feature: cluster buildings. These rows of identical houses highlight the neighborhood's working-class roots. The first example appeared across the street from the library, in the 400 block of Jersey Street.

"It was not a high-rent area," explains Stevens. "Because of that, builders came in and bought maybe three, five, ten lots in a row. They built virtually identical houses on a scale for the working man."

Although Noe Valley has become increasingly upscale in recent decades, Keremitsis finds the neighborhood's modest past appealing.

"One of the things that I like about Noe Valley is that it seems so normal," she says. "You generally don't find major architects who did work here. It's contractors, builders, people who find a way to make things work."

She believes that ordinary charm draws people to the Noe Valley tour, despite so many itineraries on offer. "It's a way of finding an anonymous neighborhood," she says, "and trying to find out what you can about it."

The tour takes place every first and third Sunday of the month, but Stevens cautions that no two tours are identical. Ten different guides cover the Noe Valley route, and each brings a unique point of view. "We all have our own slant," says Stevens. "We take off on what interests us most."

Stevens spotlights architecture, while



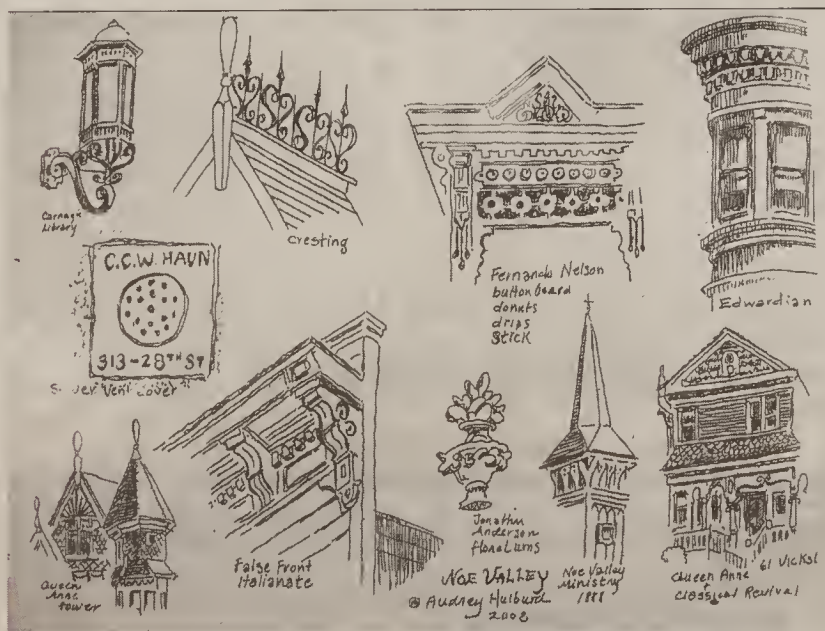
Edwardians, Italianates, and Queen Anne Victorians like this one at Jersey and Diamond are highlights of a tour led by City Guide Judy Stevens (visible at right). Photo by Pamela Gerard

Walsh underscores the neighborhood's history. "I'm very into the people who founded Noe Valley," says Walsh, "and how it became a community."

Anyone who takes the tour will likely gain a fresh outlook on the neighborhood. "They're going to see stuff after they've been on the walk that they've

never seen before," says Keremitsis. ■

Upcoming walks will be held Dec. 5 and 19 and Jan. 2 and 16. The tours start at 1:30 p.m., and depart from the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street at Castro Street. To learn more, visit the City Guides website at [www.sfcityguides.org](http://www.sfcityguides.org).



At a recent tour, City Guide Judy Stevens handed out illustrations of Victorian bric-a-brac by artist Audrey Hulburd.

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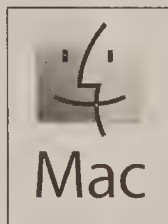
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## World Series Victory Comes to 24th Street

By Jeff Kaliss

For San Francisco Giants fans, Game 5 of the 2010 World Series, pitting our hometown heroes against the Texas Rangers in a ballpark hall a continent away, arrived about dinnertime on the fateful night of Nov. 1.

"We were watching every single strike on TV, and I was trying to cook in between," reported Upper Noe Valley resident Kevin White.

With San Francisco leading three games to one in the best-of-seven Series, this was a match that seemed to burn at a faster-than-usual rate. White, his wife, and kids were finishing their meal when Giants outfielder Edgar Renteria smashed a three-run homer in the seventh inning.

"And when [Giants pitcher Tim] Lincecum struck out the guys in the eighth, everybody went outside and started screaming—you could hear it up and down the neighborhood," said White, who lives on Laidley Street.

He and the gang then hopped in the car and headed up Church Street. "We knew it was gonna be crazy, and you can't stay home when your team is winning the World Series," said White.

The family drove past Noe's Bar, where hundreds of fans stood riveted to the nine TV screens inside the establishment. The crowd roared as Giants pitcher Brian "The Beard" Wilson brought down the first two Rangers batters in the bottom of the ninth. When Wilson threw the final strike to the only scoring Texan, Nelson Cruz, the rivets broke loose, and Noe's, like much of the city around it, went wild.

People group-hugged, high-fived, and bounced like pogo sticks, prompting 11-year-old Nick Kaliss to observe, "They have a kid in them, you can tell, with all that jumping up and down and celebrating. And it's like a community, everyone in some way knows each other."

Even Carl Norberg, an immigrant from Southern California, admitted it was impossible "to not cheer for the Giants. It's a win against Texas by everything Texas hates—the liberal attitude, the gays—so for George Bush to sit there and watch their Texas team get killed by a team from San Francisco makes it a beautiful, beautiful thing."

Tommy Basso, the late sports-loving bartender and co-owner of Noe's, seemed to be smiling down from his photographic effigy above the bar, as enchanted patrons



Noe's Bar erupts in pandemonium when Brian Wilson gets the final out. Photos by Sally Smith



The exuberant owner of a white T-Bird celebrates with fireworks at 24th and Church streets.



Fans at the Dubliner stand in awe as Major League Baseball awards the Giants their trophy.

sang along with Tony Bennett's jukebox ballad about losing his heart here.

Outside the bar, the corner of Church and 24th streets had become an axis of ecstasy, where throngs gathered to chant "Let's go Giants!" On the other side of 24th, kids in taekwondo gear and their parents, emerging from Navarette's Black Belt Academy, stopped to witness the flow of J-cars and SUVs, waving banners and honking horns. The flow came to a temporary awed halt as a vintage T-Bird stopped cold in the middle of the intersection, allowing its driver to ignite a fireworks fountain on the trolley tracks.

Down the street at the Dubliner pub, real-life Dubliner Mike Murphy said he'd been a Giants fan since the second day he relocated here from Eire, 25 years ago. "And I was at the Series in '89 and 2002, but this one is different," insisted Murphy, who now lives a couple of blocks from the bar. "I was here for the Niners' Super Bowl wins, but this was *brilliant* tonight. It's bigger than winning the World Cup!"

The Whites contingent, including several 10- and 11-year-old members of Kevin White's SF United youth soccer team, had taken a position in close but safe proximity to the Valley Tavern, on 24th near Castro.

"I was born in 1956, and the Giants came to San Francisco in 1958, so I've been waiting a long time for this," said White. He noted that his now 16-year-old son Julian had "cried his eyes out" after the Series loss to the Angels in 2002. "But what I love about the 2010 club," the elder White continued, "they were considered misfits and outcasts, and they played as a team. They beat teams which on paper could have kicked their ass."

Angela Daly, whose grandfather had owned the erstwhile Cork 'n' Bottle across the street, told Julian White that when she'd been his age, she'd played hooky from high school to buy a five-dollar bleacher seat and watch the Giants at Candlestick Park. After this night's Giants victory, she'd phoned her mother with thanks, "for not getting mad about all those times the vice principal would call and say, 'Your daughter cut class again today.'"

Julian, still banging out a rhythm on a pot nearby to accompany the ongoing chanting and honking along 24th Street, pondered the tests he'd face the next day at school in chemistry, biology, and evolution. "You know what, Julian," his dad asked rhetorically, "The first answer in evolution tomorrow is: we got to where we are by evolving to the Giants winning the Series!"

"And," Julian added, "the team had chemistry!" ■

## December Brims With HoliDAYS

By Pat Rose

From dollar-off cocktails at Bliss Bar, dinner specials at Le Zine, and book-signings at Just for Fun—to hayrides, singing troubadours, and discounts at Ambiance, See Jane Run, Bernie's, Cosmic Wizard, Global Exchange, and many other neighborhood stores—"24 HoliDAYS on 24th Street" will keep you shopping and celebrating in Noe Valley all month.

Small Frys will entertain tots under 5 with a reading of *The Nutcracker* on Dec. 7 and a reading of *The Gingerbread Man* on Dec. 14. Both events are from 9 to 10 a.m. and feature prizes, as well as treats for the little ones from Noe Valley Bakery.

Pixie Hall Studios will offer winter crafts and card-making for kids ages 3

to 9 on Dec. 4. There will be face-painting at Terra Mia on Dec. 11, and Droubi Team/Coldwell Banker will host cookie-decorating on Dec. 18.

Not to be outdone, Just for Fun will showcase a silk-dyeing demonstration Dec. 11 at 1 p.m., as well as appearances by the creators of the comic book *The Adventures of Unemployed Man* (Dec. 11 and 12, 1 to 3 p.m.) and *The Blinkybug Kit* (Dec. 15, 5 to 7 p.m.).

### Champagne, Hayrides & Cable Cars

Several merchants are serving refreshments with their discounts. Wink SF will hold a holiday open house on Friday, Dec. 10, with prizes and refreshments. Rabat is offering champagne shopping on Dec. 11 and 12. And Urban Nest will host teatime featuring Tea Forté gourmet teas on Dec. 17 from 3 to 6 p.m.

You'll want to bring the kids for the Holiday Hayrides on 24th Street on

Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate, and Saturday, Dec. 11, from noon to 3 p.m., sponsored by Patxi's Pizza. Pickup is at Walgreen's at Castro and Jersey streets with a stop at the Noe Valley Farmers Market at 24th and Vicksburg.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, noon to 4 p.m., you can hitch a ride on the Cable Car Holiday Shuttle, sponsored by Hill & Co. The cable car will run a continuous shuttle along 24th Street between Chattanooga and Diamond streets, with multiple stops on 24th Street. Turnaround is at Castro and Jersey streets.

### Four Visits from Santa

Of course, December would not be complete without Santa. He'll be making stops at Phoenix Books from 5 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 13; at Just for Fun from 5 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 16; at Small Frys from 5 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 17; and at

Hill & Co. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 18.

Thanks to the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, which is sponsoring the HoliDAYS, 24th Street also will host an amazing mix of live holiday music and dance entertainment, including acoustic folk-rock duo Laura & Kai, the Mele Kalikimaka Hula Dance Group, folk rocker Lily Holbrook, Circus Finelli, No Strings Attached, Skillet Licorice, folk/jazz guitarist Dennis Campagna, and singer/songwriter Jude Reseigne.

For exact dates, times, and locations, check the printed calendar of events available in local shops or go to [noevalleymerchants.com](http://noevalleymerchants.com). ■





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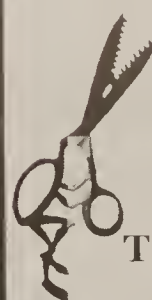


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## The Cost of Living in Noe

### October Harvest Fest

By Corrie M. Anders

If homebuyers had anxiety about the state of the local economy, they didn't show it in October. Instead, they eagerly purchased 16 single-family homes in Noe Valley, the largest number in one month since July of 2009.

The October sales total was four times the number recorded in September and almost double the number in October a year ago, according to housing data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, said both buyers and sellers appeared motivated to get deals done.

Hoping to avoid the winter doldrums, sellers decided to be "more agreeable" and cut their prices, he said. At the same time, buyers bet on the chance that mortgage interest rates had finally reached rock-bottom.

"Everybody is talking about inflation and [the prospect of] interest rates rising," Kostick said. "This is exactly what spurs buyers. When they get the feeling they're at the bottom, they get a little more active."

(Ironically, the average rate for a 30-year fixed-rate loan fell further after October buyers sealed their deals. From September to mid-November, rates slid from 4.32 to 4.11 percent.)

The heightened activity forced many buyers into aggressive bidding, Kostick said. In 11 of the 16 sales, buyers offered more than the current asking price to snag

the property they wanted.

After paying 98 percent of the list price in September, shoppers paid 102 percent in October—the same rate as one year earlier.

Homes at the top of the luxury ladder got a noticeable share of attention. Four of the single-family homes sold for more than \$2 million, while nine traded in the \$1 to \$2 million range.

The most expensive home—a modern 2,750-square-foot property with four bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and two-car parking—sold in eight days and garnered \$2,525,000—\$30,000 more than the seller's asking price. The house is located in the 700 block of Elizabeth Street between Diamond and Douglass streets.

The Noe Valley bargain of the month was a home selling for \$585,000. Though it had downtown San Francisco views, the property was a four-room "fixer-upper," located in the 1600 block of Diamond Street between 28th and 29th streets.

#### Condo Sales Steady

There was competition for condos as well in October, with new owners paying an average 1 percent over the asking price. Buyers closed escrow on nine condominiums—the same number as in September and one more than in October of 2009, according to the Zephyr data.

A financially distressed condo in the Noe Valley hills, which a bank owned, sold for \$1,043,200. Though the unit was in an older, 1965 building, the 2,316-square-foot home boasted three bedrooms, 3.5 baths, and panoramic views. The bank took \$60,000 less than it asked and the transaction took just over two months before the new owner received keys to the condo, located in the 600 block of Grand View Avenue between 24th and 25th streets.

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
<b>Single-family homes</b>						
Oct. 2010	16	\$585,000	\$2,525,000	\$1,446,719	37	102%
Sept. 2010	4	\$748,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,398,250	70	98%
Oct. 2009	9	\$849,000	\$1,581,000	\$1,126,167	51	102%
<b>Condominiums</b>						
Oct. 2010	9	\$537,000	\$1,043,200	\$790,022	71	101%
Sept. 2010	9	\$715,000	\$1,295,000	\$890,000	96	97%
Oct. 2009	8	\$515,000	\$1,275,000	\$839,000	62	99%
<b>2- to 4-unit buildings</b>						
Oct. 2010	1	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	27	96%
Sept. 2010	2	\$999,900	\$1,065,000	\$1,032,450	99	104%
Oct. 2009	2	\$1,030,000	\$1,205,000	\$1,117,500	59	95%
<b>5+-unit buildings</b>						
Oct. 2010-	0	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 2010	0	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—

\* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyrsf.com](http://www.zephyrsf.com)) for supplying the sales data. NVV 12/10

### Noe Valley Rents\*\*

Unit	No. in Sample	Range Nov. 2010	Average Nov. 2010	Average Oct. 2010	Average Nov. 2009
Studio	4	\$1,195 – \$1,975	\$1,568 / mo.	\$1,560 / mo.	\$1,307 / mo.
1-bdrm	18	\$1,275 – \$2,695	\$1,807 / mo.	\$1,727 / mo.	\$1,775 / mo.
2-bdrm	23	\$2,200 – \$4,150	\$2,906 / mo.	\$2,724 / mo.	\$2,625 / mo.
3-bdrm	19	\$2,900 – \$5,000	\$3,933 / mo.	\$3,936 / mo.	\$3,884 / mo.
4+-bdrm	7	\$3,995 – \$8,500	\$6,156 / mo.	\$5,948 / mo.	\$6,367 / mo.

\*\* Survey based on a sample of 71 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Nov. 1 to 13, 2010. NVV 12/10

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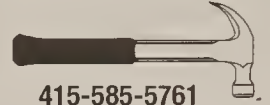
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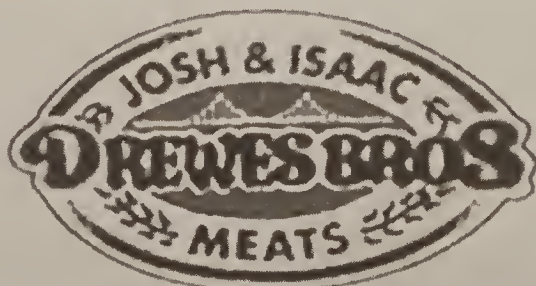
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# SHORT TAKES

## The Man Behind the Dragon Tattoo

The Glen Park Branch Library will screen a documentary about Swedish author Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy, which began with *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Larsson's life and death are almost as intriguing as the plots of the crime novels he wrote in the evening to relax. His day jobs included photographer, graphic designer, journalist, political activist, and editor of science fiction magazines. Though he had been writing them for years, he did not seek to publish the books until shortly before he died of a heart attack at age 50 in 2004.

The documentary looks at the controversy over the fortune generated by the series, as well as Larsson's early influences and his work opposing the far right movement in Sweden. Larsson exposed Swedish extreme right and racist organizations, publishing a book called *Right-Wing Extremism* ("Extremhögern") in 1991. Some have speculated that members of these organizations might have killed Larsson and made his death appear natural.

The movie also addresses the possibility of a fourth novel in the series, which had been only partially completed when he died.

The Glen Park Branch Library is located at 2825 Diamond Street, near Bosworth. For more information, visit [www.glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com](http://www.glenparklibrarysfpl.blogspot.com) or call 415-355-2858.

## A Taste of the Highlands in the Mission

Come watch the Scottish Country Dancers jig and reel at their free annual Winter Solstice party Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7:15 p.m., their final event at the Noe Valley Ministry.

The latest clan to leave the Ministry ahead of an 18-month renovation scheduled to start in March, the Dancers will don their gillies (a traditional soft-soled lace-up shoe) next year at the Polish Club of San Francisco, 3040 22nd Street at Shotwell.

From their new home, the group will offer two new classes. Neophytes are invited to learn Scottish ballroom dancing during a five-week introductory session that starts Thursday, Jan. 13, 8 to 10 p.m. No partner is required, but bring soft shoes and expect plenty of socializing with the other dancers and live musicians, says Susie Langdon Kass, teacher and member of the San Francisco chapter of the worldwide Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. The series costs \$26.

A six-session class for kids 7½ and up and their families starts Jan. 27 from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$36, with a reduced rate for family members.

The group will offer continuation classes, too, says Kass.

The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd. For more information, call 415-841-9456 or visit [www.sj-scottishdancers.org](http://www.sj-scottishdancers.org).

## Randall Museum's Special Saturdays

The Randall Museum in Corona Heights will usher in the new year with an old favorite, the drop-in "Saturdays Are Special" art and science workshops geared toward the 3- to 10-year-old crowd.

There are two choices on Saturdays:

drop-in family ceramics classes that start at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. and a new workshop each week between 1 and 4 p.m. Make snow globes Jan. 8, understand radial design by drawing watercolor flowers Jan. 15, learn printmaking Jan. 22, and create a Chinese lion head puppet Jan. 29. (The museum will be closed Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.)

The January workshops cost \$6 per

child or \$10 for an adult and a child. (Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.) Admission is free to the museum itself, a home for animals that have been injured and cannot return to the wild. Every Saturday, the museum's docents offer a live animal presentation at 11 a.m., followed by animal feeding at noon.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## A Class in the Art of Ruth Asawa

Longtime Noe Valley resident Ruth Asawa, the nationally renowned artist, will be the focus of a new class in February at San Francisco State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The four-week class will be taught by Asawa's daughter, fellow Noe Valley resident Aiko Cuneo.

In "The Art of Ruth Asawa," students will learn about the diverse career of Asawa, who is recognized for her wire and clay sculptures, public commissions, and activism in education and the arts. Staying true to her mother's character, Cuneo will close each class meeting with an art activity.

Cuneo has assisted her mother on public art projects and worked as an artist in San Francisco public schools. She also worked with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco on Asawa's 2006 retrospective and catalog.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at S.F. State is a learning community for people age 50 and up. Funded with grants from the Bernard Osher Foundation, it offers small, interactive classes as well as discussion and interest groups. All OLLI courses are open to the public; formal admission to the



Aiko Cuneo (left) will teach a class centered on the career of her mother, artist Ruth Asawa, 84. Mother and daughter are shown beneath two of Asawa's sculptures at the de Young Museum. 2005 Photo by Corrie M. Anders

university is not needed.

OLLI will host a free information session Thursday, Jan. 20, 1 to 2:30 p.m., at the school's Creative Arts Building, Room 153, 1600 Holloway Avenue (at 19th Avenue). For details, visit [creativearts.sfsu.edu/olli](http://creativearts.sfsu.edu/olli) or call 415-817-4243.



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# SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

In December, the museum will offer day camp and workshops the week before Christmas (Dec. 20 to 23) and the week after (Dec. 27 to 30). The sessions are identical, focusing on medieval activities like making castles and building armor. Camps run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are for children 8 to 12. Participants must register daily (\$35) at [www.sfreconline.org](http://www.sfreconline.org) but can attend for the whole week.

Shorter two-hour family workshops will be offered Tuesdays through Thursdays the same weeks. Children can make castles, trains, ships, and migrating birds in six different classes. Registration starts when the museum opens at 10 a.m. The workshops cost \$10 per person or \$15 for a child and adult. Museum members get a two-for-one discount.

The Randall Museum is located at 199 Museum Way (take Castro to 14th, turn left on 14th and left on Roosevelt Way, then follow the signs). Regular museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, visit [www.randallmuseum.org](http://www.randallmuseum.org) or call 415-554-9600.

## Decent Exposure: How to Get It

The San Francisco Arts Commission is hosting a free workshop Thursday, Dec. 16, for artists interested in having their work installed in parks, civic buildings, and other public spaces.

Commission staff will discuss topics such as the city's Art Enrichment Ordinance, which details where the art appears and how it is financed. They will walk through next year's application of the online 2011/12 Artists Registry, which serves as the primary pool of artists who will be considered for new commissions over the next two-year period.

The public art program was created in 1969 when the city decreed that 2 percent of the construction costs of civic buildings, transportation improvement projects, new parks, and other structures such as bridges must be allocated for public art. The goal is to support local artists and to expose residents and visitors to art. The city's Civic Art Collection contains more than 3,500 sculptures, monuments, murals, paintings, and other media.

The workshop runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m., at 25 Van Ness Avenue. For more information, visit [www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection](http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection) or call 415-252-3215.

## Merry Enlightenment at the Marsh

Buddhism trumps Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa when the Marsh Youth Theater brings back *Siddhartha, the Bright Path* for its holiday season show Dec. 10 to Jan. 9 at the newly renovated theater at 1074 Valencia Street.

Directed and co-written by Lisa Quoresimo, the play tells the parallel stories of Buddha on his path to enlightenment and a modern girl in San Francisco trying to find her own moral balance. The show is flavored with Indian music, art, classical dance, and a new hip-hop Bollywood scene.

As always, the cast of 26 ranges from 12 to 19 years old and comes from San Francisco's public, private, and parochial middle and high schools, including the Ruth Asawa School of the Arts. African-born Jens Kwabena, who plays Siddhartha, has performed with the Vienna Boys Choir and at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The play was developed by MYT Director Emily Klion in collaboration with Indian jazz fusion luminary George Brooks, and Pakistani artists Riffat Sultana and Sukhawat Ali Khan. It was written by Klion, Quoresimo, and Danny Duncan.

This is the play's fifth season at the Marsh Youth Theater, and it has also been performed outside of San Francisco.

Following two performances at local schools and three preview runs, the show opens Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Most performances start at 3 p.m., and there are four evening performances. Reserved tickets cost \$50, general admission costs \$15 to \$35 on a sliding scale, and floor seating costs \$10 to \$15 on a sliding scale. Tickets can be purchased by calling 800-838-3006 or by visiting the Marsh website, [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org). The theater is located at 1074 Valencia Street between 21st and 22nd streets.

The Marsh Youth Theater began in 2001 as a group of 10 neighborhood children and now boasts 200 participants from across the city. For more information about MYT shows, or about the theater's summer workshops, call 415-826-5750 or email [myt@themarsh.org](mailto:myt@themarsh.org).

## Paxton Gate: Curiouser and Curiouser

Valencia Street's Paxton Gate turns 18 this year, and its whimsical assortment of articulated animal skeletons, carnivorous plants, and sparkling minerals is now complemented by curios and workshops offered at its newer children's store one block north.

Paxton Gate Curiosities for Kids at 766 Valencia sells games and toys that are made from natural products, many of them nostalgically appealing to parents, says Rob Jolin, manager for both stores.

"We don't sell anything requiring batteries," Jolin says.

For most of the toy shop's life, the store was hidden behind the construction to widen sidewalks on Valencia Street, and customers were scarce, says Jolin.

"The lengthening of the sidewalk impacted us because you couldn't get to the store at all, but we're happy to be here—we love the neighborhood and the community," he says.

Winter workshops at the store start Saturday, Dec. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m., when children will blow the yolk out of eggs and decorate them as holiday ornaments. There will be a bookmaking workshop Jan. 22, a piñata (making) party Feb. 12, and a sculpture workshop Feb. 26. Two terrarium workshops on Jan. 9 and Feb. 6 cost \$60 and are geared toward adults.

The store also hosts birthday parties for

kids. "They are always fun for all—both the parents as well as the birthday person," Jolin says. To find out more, call 415-824-1872 or see [www.paxtongate.com](http://www.paxtongate.com).

Short Takes were compiled and written by Heather World.

## Work on Cesar Chavez May Start This Spring

By Corrie M. Anders

The effort to transform Cesar Chavez Street from a busy thoroughfare to a calmer, tree-lined boulevard has taken another step toward reality.

A hearing officer with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency approved the ambitious plan last month and sent the proposal to the full SFMTA board for final okay.

The action followed a Nov. 19 City Hall hearing in which a majority of the 25 or so neighborhood residents who attended spoke in support of remaking Cesar Chavez.

"A couple of people were concerned about traffic changes relating to Leonard Flynn Elementary School, but not to the point of not wanting to make it happen," said Kris Opbroek, manager of the city's Great Streets Program.

"I think it's a really smart, thoughtful project," said Guerrero Street resident Gillian Gillett of the San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets, a grassroots organization that has been lobbying several years for the improvements. "We might be getting a new level of construction and design."

The street is a major artery for residents and workers in the Mission, Bernal Heights, and Noe Valley. Traffic-choked during rush hour and accident-prone, the one-mile stretch of Cesar Chavez between Guerrero and Hampshire streets will have a completely new look if the \$7 million redesign is given the green light.

To make the road safer and more people-friendly, the project calls for wider sidewalks, a widened landscaped median, and two lanes of traffic in each direction instead of the present three. It would also feature bike lanes, "bulbouts," and changes to left-turn lanes.

The work would be part of a two-stage process, lasting about two years. First, the city's Public Utilities Commission will construct a second major sewer line under Cesar Chavez Street and reline an existing pipeline. That job is expected to start this spring, Opbroek said, with work on the streetscape project to begin next fall.

Opbroek said the board would hold public hearings sometime in January. For more information, visit [www.sfdpw.org/index.aspx?page=1166](http://www.sfdpw.org/index.aspx?page=1166).

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# POLICE BEAT

## REPORT FROM MISSION STATION

The Noe Valley Voice thanks 24th Street Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo for providing this tally of incidents reported in the half of Noe Valley covered by the Mission Police District. The log includes some but not all incidents occurring Oct. 11 to Nov. 10, 2010, in the area bordered by Grand View, 20th, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets. To contact Officer Lombardo, call Mission Station at 558-5400.

**Oct. 11, 12:20 a.m. to 10:10 a.m., 4000 block of 24th, Burglary of a Restaurant:** A cook told Officer Johnson that he locked all the doors and windows, set the alarm, and closed up the restaurant. When the cook came back to open the restaurant, he found the back door had been kicked in and part of the cash register was found in a sink filled with water. The back door panel was damaged, the cash register was pried apart, and \$200 was taken.

**Oct. 18, 10:42 p.m., 20th and Church, Robbery:** Officers Nantroup and Kessor responded to a call of a robbery. The victim told police that she was walking past a red Cadillac when she was attacked by a man who forcefully put his arm around her neck and said, "Give me your camera!" She screamed, "I am being mugged—help me!" She fought during the struggle, but the suspect took her purse, got into the Cadillac, and fled. Meanwhile, undercover Officers Moody, Kenney, and Cathey responded to the scene, searched the area, and found a red Cadillac being driven by suspects who matched the victim's description. Police attempted to stop the vehicle with lights and sirens, but it sped away at a high rate of speed, running stop signs. Multi-

ple police vehicles pursued the suspects through the Mission and Ingleside districts, catching up with them at 30th Street. Suspects were taken from the vehicle, property from the victim was found, and suspects were identified. The suspects were arrested and escorted to jail, and their red Cadillac was towed.

**Oct. 19, 9:15 p.m., 200 block of Fair Oaks, Robbery:** Officers Manrique and Chambers responded to a robbery call. The victim told police she was walking on the sidewalk when she was approached by three suspects. One approached her from behind, and grabbed her shoulders. He told her to "shhh" and "be quiet." Meanwhile, the other suspect grabbed her cell phone, and all three suspects fled. They are described as 25 to 29 years old. One was wearing a black and gray thin-striped hooded sweatshirt; another an orange hooded sweatshirt.

**Oct. 20, 12:21 a.m., 20th and Dolores, Attempted Robbery:** Officer Wilson responded to a call of an attempted robbery. The victim told police that he was approached by a suspect from behind while walking on Dolores Street. The suspect said, "Give me your phone and I'll walk away." The victim said "no." The suspect said "Excuse me?" and reached into his pocket and clicked the hammer of a gun. The victim, afraid of being robbed at gunpoint, told the suspect, "There is a police car doubled-parked down the block." The suspect looked that direction and briskly jogged away.

**Oct. 30 to Nov. 4, 4400 block of 24th, Elder Abuse:** A registered nurse from Adult Protective Services came to Mission Station and reported to Officer Friedman a case involving elder and financial abuse. The victim had been withdrawing large amounts of cash from his ATM and giving it to his deceased partner's brother. The victim had been verbally and physically abused by the suspect. The victim recently inherited money from his deceased mother, and information about the inheritance had been left on a coffee table.

**Nov. 2, 11:47 a.m., 4000 block of 24th, Bank Robbery:** Officer Andaluz and multiple po-

lice responded to a call of a bank robbery on 24th Street near Noe. The suspect entered the bank, walked up to the teller, and in a deep voice said, "Don't push the button. Give me all the fifties and hundreds, and don't give me the marked money." The suspect placed a brown paper bag on top of the counter. The teller complied with his demands and placed the money on the counter. The suspect grabbed the money and placed it inside his pocket and exited the bank, leaving the bag on the counter. He was described as a black male, 25 to 30 years old, 5'8", slender build, 170 pounds. He was wearing a bright yellow mesh safety vest trimmed in orange, with "San Francisco" on the front and "BSES" (Bureau of Street Environmental Services) on the back. He had on dark sunglasses and a new black San Francisco Giants World Series Champions baseball cap with a light colored bill.

**Nov. 3, 10:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Castro and Hill, Stolen Vehicle:** 1996 White Jeep Cherokee

**Nov. 7 to 9, 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., 400 block of Clipper, Stolen Vehicle:** 1991 Mercedes Benz, 190E 2.3L, four-door, green

**Nov. 9, 12 a.m., 300 block of Hill, Found Property:** A man came to Mission Station to turn in found property. He found the following items on the roof of his house: five bracelets, three necklaces, one choker, two rings, three pairs of earrings, miscellaneous jewelry, and a white iPod. The man thought the property might belong to a neighbor from a prior burglary years ago.

**Nov. 10, 10:11 a.m., 4000 block of 24th, Bank Robbery:** Officers Claudio and Flannery responded to a bank robbery at the corner of 24th and Castro. Witnesses told police a light-skinned black male in his late 20s, approximately 5'9", large build with a stubble beard, wearing a purple jacket, pulled a black beanie hat over his face and entered the bank. He walked up to a teller and said "Gimme the money, the hundreds. Gimme more. I have a gun." He placed his left hand near his left

jacket pocket "as if he had a gun." The shaken teller handed over the money. The suspect left the bank with the cash, removed the beanie hat, and disappeared.

## REPORT FROM INGLESIDE STATION

The following police blotter covers incidents reported Oct. 11 to Nov. 10, in Upper Noe Valley—the area roughly bounded by Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Diamond streets. The incidents were culled from news-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Police Borders

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions—Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District—with Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line. Mission Station covers the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside patrols the southern half. Both districts invite citizens to attend police community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane.

## Police Contacts

Mission Station: 558-5400  
Anonymous Tip Line: 552-4558  
Newsletter: [sfpd.mission.station@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpd.mission.station@sfgov.org)  
Capt. Greg Corrales: 558-5455  
[Gregory.Corrales@sfgov.org](mailto:Gregory.Corrales@sfgov.org)

Ingleside Station: 404-4000  
Anonymous Tip Line: 587-8984  
Newsletter: [sfpd.ingleside.station@sfgov.org](mailto:sfpd.ingleside.station@sfgov.org)  
Capt. Louis Cassanego: 404-4030  
[Louis.Cassanego@sfgov.org](mailto:Louis.Cassanego@sfgov.org)

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## Beauty and the Beast

By Mark Segelman

We're flying to New York. When fate allowed us both to finish our big projects at the same time, we decided to embark on our first long trip together. Somehow, though, the planning process turned a week of inertia on Kauai into eight days in New York with a slate of activities as ambitious as the schedules we'd left in our offices.

Rebecca likes to fly but hates take-offs, and she clutches my hand as we head down the runway, pumping it like a blood-pressure cuff. Once we're in the air, she lets go and we fall asleep. We miss most of the in-flight movie, and we might have missed the end had it not been for some bumpy air over Indiana, which causes Rebecca to grab onto my arm.

The movie is a romantic comedy. Having slept through the obstacle that love is called upon to vanquish so that the film's stars will be kissing or dancing or running off into a misty sunset when the closing credits roll, we enter the movie without headphones, just as the guy star is trying desperately to find a cab. He needs to get to the train station in time to convince the woman star that she must either stay there with him or let him leave with her. The woman's face is stoically blank as he approaches, but her eyes freeze and her mouth stiffens as he begins to speak. He looks so earnest and contrite, the outer edges of his eyebrows droop as if they themselves are begging for forgiveness. And then her face begins to soften, and tears form in the corners of her eyes as if her resolve is, literally, melting. The woman manages a sad smile and moves to kiss him, and I'm sure I read in his eyes that he's just promised that "it"—whatever he's done wrong—will never happen again. The woman pulls away, beaming now and sniffling, and Rebecca squeezes my hand.

"That wasn't so bad for an airplane movie," Rebecca says.

"The parts we saw seemed okay," I say, "but we missed the 'Beauty and the Beast' part, which might have been horrible."

Rebecca stirs. "What? What's wrong with *Beauty and the Beast*?"

"Oh, no, that's not what I meant. I can't wait to see it." I remember, a moment too late, that we have tickets to see the live Broadway production on Thursday night. "I just wonder if this is one of those movies where a woman falls for some roguish bad guy and thinks that if she loves him enough he'll stop being a bad guy. Those movies should all have sequels where the woman finally realizes that it's not her fault that her beast didn't turn into a prince, and the only thing she did wrong was believe she could change him."

"Wow," Rebecca says through a yawn. "You don't believe that, do you? That most women fall in love with beasts in the hope of turning them into princes?"

"That would require me to believe

that movies actually reflect real life," I say, only now realizing that we could be heading for a discussion I didn't want.

I've wondered now and then whether Rebecca fell in love with Brad because he was one of those beasts, or if he was genuinely nice while he wine-dined her all over San Francisco until one day he just woke up and decided to cheat on her. But I knew that no good could have come of any more of this; the safety of talking hypothetically would eventually give way to cases in point, which would lead to picking at scars. Fortunately, Rebecca's head falls gently onto my shoulder and she drifts back to sleep.

New York City invigorates Rebecca, and she crams our days with lots of things to do. We dart from place to place, walking briskly for blocks or flagging down cabs with the tenacity of hungry wolves. Rebecca's energy seems boundless as we shop, visit New York's notable attractions, and dine at fashionable restaurants. Comparing the way Rebecca storms through Manhattan with how she wafts through San Francisco reminds me a little of the screen of my laptop computer, which is much brighter when the computer is plugged into a wall socket than when it's running only on its battery.

As we ride in a cab back to our hotel on Thursday night after *Beauty and the Beast*, I say, "Hon, maybe we could just spend the day tomorrow sitting in the

park or something."

"Matt, this is New York," she says. "There's so much to do here, and never enough time."

"I know," I say. I kiss her. "But all this rushing around all day and dropping right off to sleep as soon as we get in, that's what we've been doing at home for the last few months."

"Maybe later in the week?" she says. "Tomorrow's galleries are almost impossible to get into on the weekend."

Our tour of the galleries is quiet. Rebecca has been a few steps ahead of me all day, dressed and sipping her coffee while I'm still in the shower, writing postcards while I try to gulp down a cup of hot tea, stepping off to look at the next piece of art just as I approach the one she'd been studying. We're moving at the same pace, but it's as if Rebecca has gotten a head start on this day and is refusing to relinquish it. Later, we eat sandwiches in Washington Square Park, where a stream of lunchers, students, and dog walkers provides enough fodder for small talk, but we seem stuck there, like an old car that whines loudly at the turn of the ignition but won't start.

That evening, we have dinner at the very tony Neon City with some friends of Rebecca's from business school. As we're led to our table, Zoe apologizes for not being able to get reservations at the even tonier Avenue, just a few blocks away.

By the time our entrees arrive, Re-

becca and her friends are comparing the perks of their jobs. Rebecca gets a new laptop every year, Zoe has unlimited use of a company car, Roger's flown in his bank's private jet, and so on. The biggest perk offered by my law firm to newer associates like me—free caffeine during all-nighters—shrinks by comparison, and I say nothing. Zoe's husband, Tim, broadens the topic by observing that being a successful cardiologist means being able to eat at places like Neon City all the time, and comparative boasting ensues. Zoe and Tim rattle off an endless list of the top-shelf restaurants in which they've eaten in the past few months, while Roger and his wife, Angelina, nod like congregants.

I watch Rebecca, her eyes wide and her smile sublime, as if she can almost taste all that food, and I become a little sad because I know Brad would be smiling right along with her, and to me, all this food stuff just doesn't matter so much. I think then that maybe Rebecca doesn't want me, that what she really wants is Brad, modified so that he doesn't cheat on her but as Brad as ever about all the rest of it, being at the epicenter of trendy living in lively cities like New York and San Francisco. And then I think of my little "Beauty and the Beast" tirade. I can't say whether I'm a pre-made prince, but I know I'm not a pre-made Brad, and I wonder if what Rebecca really wants is to disassemble me and rebuild me as Brad but without the parts that broke her heart.

The evening ends with hugs and promises from Rebecca's friends to visit San Francisco. Our cab ride back to our hotel is quiet.

At the hotel, Rebecca mentions that Zoe has given us her Saturday dinner reservation at the Big Apple Brewery, where Robert DeNiro likes to eat. I wonder aloud if we could just grab some pizza somewhere instead.

"Where's your spirit of adventure, Matt? This is supposed to be a really cool restaurant."

"I'm just tired," I say.

"Tired of what?"

"I don't know," I say. "Just tired. Tired of loud restaurants. Tired of trying to hit as many of the cool places as we can."

Rebecca looks stunned. For me this is the same conversation we had on Thursday, after *Beauty and the Beast*. And then it isn't.

"I'm tired," I say, "of feeling like you wish I were Brad."

"What?" Rebecca says, bouncing under the blanket. "You think I wish you were Brad?"

"I think that if you were here with Brad, he'd be taking you to every A-list restaurant in the city and you'd be loving it. I think you want us to be running off to as many Neon Cities as our stomachs can handle, when all I really wanted to do was spend quiet time with you, unwind, get some normalcy back into our lives."

"Matt, this is New York. I thought we agreed—"

"I don't need to go to the best restaurants in New York every day," I say.

## OTHER VOICES

selected fiction and poetry • the noe valley voice



Coming Home.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# OTHER VOICES

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## Beauty and the Beast

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"I'm okay with having an unglamorous job. Tonight at dinner, Brad would have been able to brag about piloting the corporate yacht. I saw the look on your face when I didn't say anything cool about my job."

Rebecca sighs. "Matt, I don't want you to be Brad. This is crazy."

I stop myself. Maybe she's right. Maybe this is my issue. Maybe she doesn't want anything from me, and the only person who's disappointed that I'm not the Good Brad is me. And then—

"Look," Rebecca says, "I don't think there's anything wrong with having money and spending it on things like great meals. That's how I relax after a tough day at my office. This week, Matt, this is me unwinding. It happens that Brad liked to relax the same way."

"Okay," I say. "I understand."

Rebecca kisses me on the cheek. "Okay," she says. "I understand too."

Our Sunday is subdued. After a day in Brooklyn, which includes a short walk in Prospect Park after brunch, we head over to the Big Apple

Brewery, although we don't see Robert De Niro.

On Monday morning, we fly back to San Francisco. During takeoff, Rebecca holds onto my hand loosely, but I can see that she's anchored her other hand to her armrest. We sleep through the entire in-flight movie, rousing when it's time to put our seatbacks into the upright position in anticipation of our arrival in San Francisco, although Rebecca drifts off to sleep again, missing a smooth landing. This time, we won't hit bumpy air until after we land.

~ ~ ~

Marina resident **Mark Segelman** writes fiction and sometimes poetry, and works as a California state attorney. A Boston native, he is also a ukulele player and a cartoonist with his own line of greeting cards, *Sparkdog Cards*. "Beauty and the Beast" was inspired by his as-yet-untitled novel in progress. He has read a chapter from the same novel at Litquake's popular "Barely Published Authors" event. Readers can contact him at [sparkdogcompany@gmail.com](mailto:sparkdogcompany@gmail.com).



PHOTO BY DEBRA BAIDA

With January just around the corner, and with a mountain of photographs threatening to land us on A&E's *Hoarders* show, the Voice asked professional organizer Debra Baida to share a few tips on organizing in the new year. We're happy she obliged. Now we have hope.

## Slow Down to Make Room for What Matters in 2011

By Debra Baida

The beginning of a new year presents a fine occasion to hit the proverbial reset button and get oneself back on track or onto a new course altogether. It is a time of new beginnings and in many ways, too, a revisiting of the old.

So as the last of the holiday season's nogs and bubbles are sipped and the glitter and pine needles are swept away, allow yourself to slow down and sit down to think about your resolutions and goals for the new year. What habits and ways are you ready to shed or revise? What will you add?

If you are like many, getting organized may be on your list. Perhaps it's made an appearance in years past, and maybe this time, this year, you are ready to liberate those physical, mental, or emotional obstacles that may be hindering your efforts to focus on the things in life that matter.

So where to start? Pull out a piece of paper and jot down your goals. Putting them in writing often changes your relationship to them: they suddenly become more real.

Set realistic and attainable goals. From your list, identify no more than two or three areas where you wish to make change. The lower the number, the more likely you can accomplish these goals first and cross them off the list, thereby making room for the next two or three.

Start with the task that will provide you with the greatest impact or sense of accomplishment. If clearing your desk will enable you to create the space to begin writing your novel, start with the desk. Likewise, if cleaning out and organizing the kitchen junk drawer will deliver a sense of relief, then by all means, let that be goal number one.

Commit time and effort to make your resolution a reality. As with anything in life, you make progress and achieve success when you commit to the process. Open your calendar and pick a start date and time. Schedule a regular 15- or 30-minute session with (and for!) yourself to organize each week. If you can do more, by all means, go crazy. You have to start somewhere, because, trust me, these things don't happen on their own!

Focus on one project or area at a time. If you start with the piles of paper, stay with the piles of papers until they are done. Period.

Steady and slow wins the race. In organizing, there is no race. Steady and consistent progress—even if it happens at a pace slower than anticipated—will get you to your goal. It's a step-by-step, or if you prefer a food metaphor, a bite-by-bite process.

As you set forth on the path of organization, remember to be gentle with yourself and patient with the journey. Getting organized, like any other resolution on your list—be it achieving better life-work balance, losing weight, working out more, eating healthy, or saving money—requires a change of pattern and habit. It entails bringing in and adapting something new and requires you to slow down so you can absorb it.

Onward, as you savor each slow and intentional sip of the new year! ■

Guerrero Street resident Debra Baida is founder of *Liberated Spaces* ([www.liberatedspaces.com](http://www.liberatedspaces.com)). She's also the first professional organizer to be certified by the San Francisco Green Business Program.

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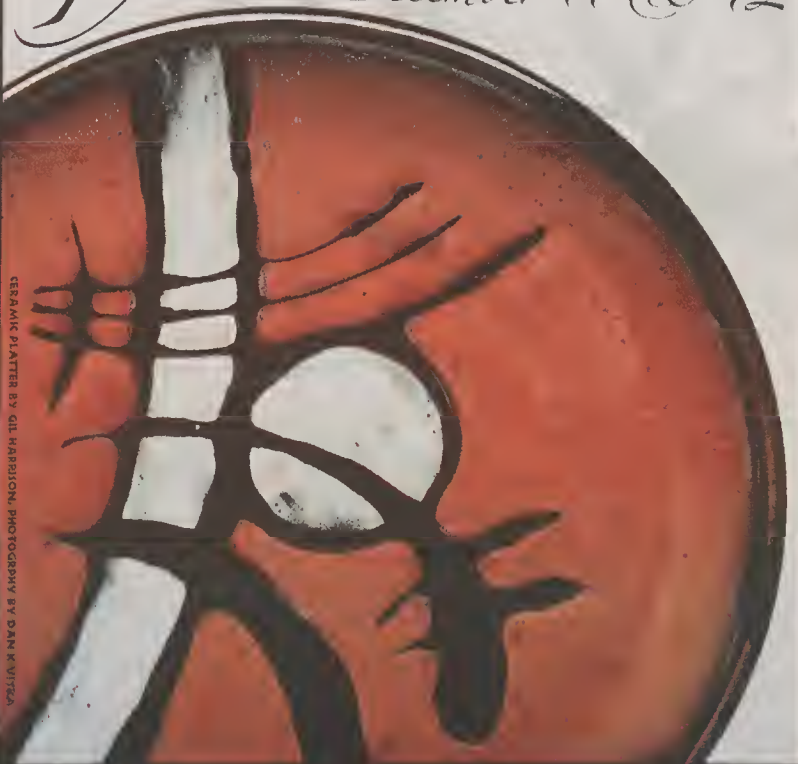
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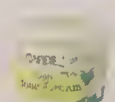


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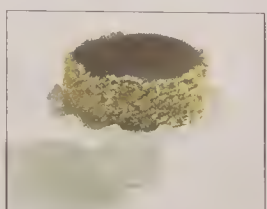
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# STORE TREK

By Karen Topakian

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* feature profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce two Church Street businesses that live within feet of one another: Design Quarter, offering an eclectic mix of furniture and art objects; and Re:Construction Salon, a hair salon for women and men.

## DESIGN QUARTER

1478A Church Street at 27th Street  
www.designquarter.com  
415-642-1225

When the five co-owners of Design Quarter, Noe Valley's newest home furnishings store, opened their doors last July, they made a point of announcing their goals to the community.

"Our philosophy is one of minimizing negative impacts on our environment by reusing, refurbishing, and recycling objects that would otherwise be discarded. We pride ourselves on our honesty and integrity, and will never sell reproductions or misrepresent the age, source, or composition of the items we sell," they pledged in a sign in the front window.

Located on Church Street at 27th Street in the former home of Lynn Antiques, the shop also vowed to be "a store with options," says co-owner Debbie Cole. That part should be easy.

Cole and her partners have divided up the small rooms in the 1,000-square-foot split-level space and crowded them with their individual collections of chairs, tables, lamps, wall hangings, kitchenware, jewelry, and art—both old and new.

"We can do whatever we want in our space," says Cole.

A former owner of the Pickled Hutch antique store, Cole fills her room with vintage glassware, linens, and furniture, including such items as a French antique upholstered chair (\$250), metal barware (under \$50), and half-aprons that could be worn by *Mad Men's* Betty Draper (\$25). She also has eye-catching art.

"Can't you see this in a baby's room or a loft?" says Cole, pointing to a six-foot purple letter A (\$250).

Dan Quita, who trained as an architect in the Philippines, specializes in rebuilt, redesigned, and repurposed pieces. His space features huge wall clocks three feet across (\$545 and up), which he put together using parts from older clocks. "And they work," he says with pride.

He shares his space with Napa-based artist Gypsy Beggs, who custom-designs, paints, and reupholsters furniture. A ma-



Debbie Cole and Dan Quita are among the five partners who have opened Church Street's Design Quarter, a shop specializing in repurposed furniture and art. Photos by Pamela Gerard

hogany chest and nightstand that she cleaned, sanded, and painted a lime green has a price tag of \$895.

Co-owner Cathy Sweetman, who has been in the antique business for more than 30 years, is an expert in California art and a collector of crystal-drop chandeliers (starting at \$650).

Sharon Dunham, a Duncan Street resident, occupies the fifth room, mostly with American collectibles, such as Depression-era bowls and plates, and wrought-iron garden furniture. Cole says Dunham "definitely has a following."

Eight jewelry designers rent cases in the store, displaying their own look of vintage and contemporary jewelry. Barbara Wray, one of the designers, makes necklaces out of glass beads and African trading beads, says Cole. Another has been known to design jewelry for the TV show *Dancing with the Stars*.

Cole met Quita last summer when she bought one of his clocks on Craigslist. At the time, Quita was closing his three-year-old store on Ninth Avenue (called Design Quarter), and Cole was looking to open one in Noe Valley. They soon honed in on Church Street and took Quita's store name with them.

Cole says the five owners trade off on manning the store, with help from their friends and families. Cole's niece Jenny Cardoso sometimes fills in for her. An artist in her own right, Cardoso sells small painted canvasses, custom murals, and brightly painted children's chairs (\$35).

To kick off the holidays, Design Quarter held a party and fundraiser, donating a share of the store's proceeds to Rocket Dog Rescue. Says Quita, "It's part of our commitment to the community."

The store will pour champagne and serve cookies on Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. Design Quarter's regular hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

## RE:CONSTRUCTION SALON

1504 Church Street at 27th Street  
415-824-1707  
Ashley@reconstructionsalon.com  
www.reconstructionsalon.com

The décor of Re:Construction Salon takes a no-frills approach to design. "I have a lot of male clients," explains owner/stylist Ashley Whitfield, who opted for a gender-neutral space.

Whitfield calls it a "comfortable, serene, quiet, nice environment; mini-

malist but tasteful." And she's right. From the walls painted a "cool cloud color" to the slate-gray concrete floors to the soft-focus photographs of San Francisco by photographer Todd Matthew Clapp, the space resonates calmness.

Re:Construction Salon opened in the former home of When Modern Was at 1504 Church Street on June 1, after less than a month of renovation. Whitfield chose the location because a "concentration of my clients are here—in Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, Mission, Castro. A lot of my clients live closer to here than to Hair Play" at 1599 Dolores Street, where Whitfield worked for four years.

A local herself with an address at 21st and Valencia, Whitfield walks to work. She says many of her clients do too. Often they are moms and dads who stroll by and stop in to make an appointment.

Whitfield's services include cutting, styling, and applying color, which she considers her specialty. "I love the marriage of both," says Whitfield, noting that she doesn't do relaxes or other hair treatments using "extreme chemicals."

Women's haircuts are priced at \$70 and men's at \$55. Coloring prices are based on the length and volume of the client's hair, she says. A root touchup costs \$70; add \$15 to \$25 more for all-over color. Partial highlights start at \$85 and full at \$120. Whitfield gives new clients a 20 percent discount on their first visit.

The salon sells Pureology shampoos, conditioners, and styling products, as well as Osis and Bonacure hair-care products.

With three chairs and a washing station, Whitfield could accommodate more stylists, but for now "I'm enjoying it being quiet and just being me." She plans to reassess her staffing needs in June.

Her 11 years of experience, including seven in Orange County, have taught her the importance of good customer service. "I like making my clients happy," says Whitfield. "It's basic cut and dry."



Ashley Whitfield brings 11 years of experience in hair design to her latest creation: Re:Construction Salon.

Re:Construction is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. The shop is closed on Sunday and Monday.

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# DECEMBER

**Dec. 1-Jan. 26:** Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for 0-18 months, begins at 1:30 pm, a preschool story time for ages 3 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**Dec. 1-13:** The Golden Gate Artists group exhibits "A Brush with Color," an 11-woman ART SHOW at Gallery Sanchez within the Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; [joannlyates@gmail.com](mailto:joannlyates@gmail.com).

**Dec. 1-29 & Jan. 3-31:** NOE VALLEY JOGGERS meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 am and Saturdays at 8:30 am for a 30-minute walk/jog across local terrain. 23rd & Diamond. 509-6261.

**Dec. 1-31:** Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Call to reserve a spot, 648-1030.

**Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 1-31:** OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Mon.-Sat., 7 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Dec. 1-31 & Jan. 3-31:** Chris Sequeira offers free Wednesday and Friday introductory OIGONG/TAI CHI at the Glen Park, Elk & Chenery, at 10:30 am, and at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, at 6 pm Mondays. 773-8185; [livingtaichiprinciples.blogspot.com](http://livingtaichiprinciples.blogspot.com).

**Dec. 2-Jan. 27:** A Thursday morning STROLLER WALK through Noe Valley starts at Holey Bagel. 11 am. 3872 24th.

**Dec. 2-Jan. 27:** The weekly CANDLELIT YOGA at Kiki-Yo emphasizes deep relaxation. Thurs., 7 pm. 605B Chenery. 587-5454; [kiki-yo.com](http://kiki-yo.com).

**Dec. 3:** Phoenix Books holds Vintage CARTOON Night, for kids and parents. 6 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

**Dec. 3-22:** CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts a Holiday Art Sale. Mon.-Wed. & Fri., 10 am-3 pm, Thurs., 10 am-7 pm; Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; [creativityexplored.org](http://creativityexplored.org).

**Dec. 3-Jan. 28:** Shout™ BINGO! at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley 648-7538.

**Dec. 3-Jan. 28:** The Friday night "Jazz in the Bookshop" series at BIRD & BECKETT begins at 5:30 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; [birdbeckett.com](http://birdbeckett.com).

**Dec. 3-Jan. 28:** Dolores Park Cafe hosts Friday MUSIC and spoken word. 7:30-10 pm. 501 Dolores. 621-2936. [doloresparkcafe.org](http://doloresparkcafe.org).

**Dec. 4:** The 27th annual SWEDISH CHRISTMAS FAIR features traditional music, dancing, food, and glögg, and a Santa Lucia pageant. 9 am-4 pm. St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough. 823-6957; [swea.org/sanfrancisco](http://swea.org/sanfrancisco).

**Dec. 4 & 11:** Zephyr Real Estate and Patxi's Pizza sponsor HAYRIDES—in a horse-drawn wagon—as part of "24 HOLIDAYS on 24th Street." Dec. 4, 2-4 pm. Dec. 11, noon-3 pm. Board at Walgreen's on Castro. 385-1827.

**Dec. 4-18 & Jan. 1-29:** Craig Ventresco and Meredith Axelrod play RAG-TIME and blues at the Atlas Cafe. 4-6 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047.

**Dec. 4-19:** The Mark Foehringer Dance Project performs *NUTCRACKER*, a version of the classic, at Zeum. Sat., 11 am, 2 & 4 pm; Sun., 11 am & 2 pm. 221 4th. 820-3320; [zeum.org](http://zeum.org).

**Dec. 4-Jan. 29:** Come hear live music at the Noe Valley FARMERS MARKET, held Saturdays, 8 am to 1 pm. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; [noevalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://noevalleyfarmersmarket.com).

**Dec. 4-Jan. 30:** City Guides offers WALKING TOURS of the Castro on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org).

**Dec. 5:** Chabad Noe Valley and Just for Fun co-host the Grand MENORAH LIGHTING at 24th and Noe, near Chase Bank, 4-6:30 pm. Dreidel spin tournament, 3:30 pm. 285-4068.

**Dec. 5:** The SF BICYCLE COALITION holds a Winterfest fundraiser and art

show, featuring music and a silent auction. 6-10:30 pm. SOMArts Gallery, 934 Brannan. 431-BIKE.

**Dec. 5:** MUSIC ON THE HILL presents "Last Tango," a concert of works by Astor Piazzola, inspired by the Argentine dance. 7 pm. St. Aidan's Church, 101 Gold Mine Drive. 820-1429; [musicon-thehill.org](http://musicon-thehill.org).

**Dec. 5, 12 & 19:** The Sunday Afternoon JAZZ Series at Bliss Bar features vocalist Kay Kostopoulos (Dec. 5), keyboardist Larry Vuckovich and vocalist Valeriana Ouevedo (Dec. 12), and Vuckovich and vocalist Kenny Washington (Dec. 19). 4:30-7:30 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; [blissbarsf.com](http://blissbarsf.com).

**Dec. 5 & 19; Jan. 2 & 16:** SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org).

**Dec. 5-Jan. 30:** Learn about MISSION COLORES at a City Guides walk on Sundays, 11 am. Meet at the gold fire hydrant at 20th and Church. 557-4266; [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org).

**Dec. 6-Jan. 31:** Bliss Bar's Monday COMEY Open Mic Night is hosted by Jacob Goldstein. 8 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; [blissbarsf.com](http://blissbarsf.com).

**Dec. 7 & 14:** Small Frys hosts a reading of *The Nutcracker* on Dec. 7 and *The Gingerbread Man* on Dec. 14, especially for ages 5 and under. 9-10 am. 4066 24th. 648-3954.

**Dec. 7-Jan. 25:** Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for babies to age 4. 10 am. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

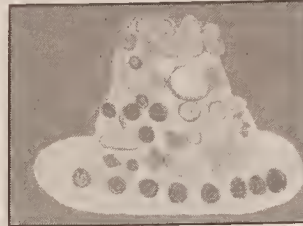
**Dec. 7-Jan. 25:** The weekly BABY AND ME YOGA at Kiki-Yo is open to pre-crawling babies and their caregivers. Tues., 11 am-12:30 pm. 605 B Chenery. 587-5454; [kiki-yo.com](http://kiki-yo.com).

**Dec. 7-Jan. 25:** The Noe Valley Library's weekly TODDLER TALES event

features rhymes, movement, and music for 18 months to 3-year-olds. Tues., 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**Dec. 7-Jan. 25:** Eureka Valley Library's Tuesday TODDLER TALES, for ages 18 months to 3 years, start at 10:30 am. 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**Dec. 8:** Joan Nathan signs *Quiches*,



Creativity Explored continues its holiday art show and sale through Dec. 22 at 3245 16th Street.

*Kugels, and Couscous: My Search for JEWISH COOKING in France*. 4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](http://omnivorebooks.com).

**Dec. 9:** An EDIBLE HOLIDAY GIFT workshop at Omnivore Books runs from 6 to 7 pm; reservations required. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](http://omnivorebooks.com).

**Dec. 9-11:** Students at James Lick Middle School present *ALADDIN*, a play in English and Spanish. Thurs. & Fri., 6 pm; Sat., 2 & 6 pm. 1220 Noe. 695-5675.

**Dec. 9 & Jan. 13:** Openhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIORS to second-Thursday meetings at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.

**Dec. 10:** Wink SF hosts a holiday OPEN HOUSE, with discounts, prizes, and refreshments. 5-8 pm. 4107 24th. 401-8881.

**Dec. 10:** The SF Museum and Historical Society hosts a SILVER HOLIDAY TEA. Seatings at 1 and 3 pm. the Old Mint, 88 5th. For tickets: 537-1105; [sfhistory.org](http://sfhistory.org).

**Dec. 10:** Edward Jones sponsors STAR WARS arts and crafts for kids. 2-5 pm. 4190 24th. 282-4079.

**Dec. 10:** *Opium Magazine's* Literary DEATH MATCH runs from 6 to 9:30 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788; [www.elbo.com](http://www.elbo.com).

**Dec. 10-Jan. 9:** The Marsh Youth Theater performs *SIDDHARTHA, the Bright Path*. 1074 Valencia. For a schedule and tickets: 826-5750; [themarsh.org](http://themarsh.org).

**Dec. 11:** The Older Women's League (OWL) holds a HOLIDAY POTLUCK and gift exchange. 10 am-noon. 870 Market, room 975. Rsvp to 989-4422; [owlsf.org](http://owlsf.org).

**Dec. 11:** The Creative Arts Charter School hosts a Craft and BOOK FAIR. 10 am-4 pm. 1601 Turk. 749-3509.

**Dec. 11:** Jungle Joe brings his Animal Trainer PUPPET SHOW to the Noe Valley Library. 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

**Dec. 11:** The 1890 Bryant HOLIDAY SALE features artwork from studios in the building. Noon-6 pm. 1890bryant.com.

**Dec. 11:** SILK accessory design is demonstrated at Just for Fun (3982 24th, 1-4 pm), while FACES are painted at Terra Mia (1314 Castro, 2-4 pm). Just for Fun, 285-4068.

**Dec. 11:** Paxton Gate offers an EGG-DECORATING workshop at Curiosities for Kids. 2-4 pm. 766 Valencia. 824-1872; [paxtongate.com](http://paxtongate.com).

**Dec. 11:** Jessica Theroux discusses *Cooking with ITALIAN Grandmothers*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; [omnivorebooks.com](http://omnivorebooks.com).

**Dec. 11:** The JOHN WATERS live Christmas show, "A Sleigh Full of Smut," features a raffle, complimentary martinis, and an after-show meet and greet. 7:30 pm. Roxie Theater, 3117 16th. 863-

## Curious George Saves the Day

THE ART OF MARGRET AND H. A. REY

An exhibition of original drawings & the dramatic story of their creator's journey



**Sunday, Dec 12 »** Free Admission for SF Public Library Card Holders  
plus live music, storytelling, puppet-making & an appearance by Curious George!

**Saturday, Dec 25 »** Open & FREE Target Community Day

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Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H. A. Rey is organized by The Jewish Museum, New York. The exhibition is supported by a bequest from the Estate of Core Ross. The San Francisco presentation is generously supported by the Mirix and Peter H. and Jeanne L. Foundation, Rosalyn Chromson Sling PNC Foundation, Cheri Schreyer and Gordon Freund, and Julie and David M. Krieger and Taube Foundations are the lead supporters of the 2005-06 exhibition season. Free admission on Dec. 7 made possible by Gals Rand. Free admission for children and youth made possible by the Alexander M. and Jane L. Mason Foundation. Image Credit: H. A. Rey, final illustration for "Curious George: He lived in Africa" published in *Free Original Curious George* (1998). France: 35x40, watercolor, charcoal, and color pencil on paper. H. A. & Margret Rey Papers, de Grunwald Children's Literature Collection, McCam Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi. Curious George and related characters, created by Margret and H. A. Rey, are copyrighted and trademarked by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. © 2010 by HMH.



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1087; roxie.com.

**Dec. 11 & 12:** BAZAAR BIZARRE indie craft fair features unusual handmade and locally designed goods. Sat., noon-5 pm; Sun., noon-6 pm. Fort Mason Center, Herbst Pavilion. 684-8447; [bazaarbizarre.org](http://bazaarbizarre.org).

**Dec. 11 & Jan. 8:** LAOYBUG GARDENERS invites you to help tend the park at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day and Sanchez, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 am to noon. 970-8061; [jrlion@aol.com](mailto:jrlion@aol.com).

**Dec. 11 & Jan. 8:** Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; [naturalresources-sf.com](http://naturalresources-sf.com).

**Dec. 12:** The authors of a parody of superhero comic books, *The Adventures of UNEMPLOYED MAN*, appear at Just for Fun. 1-3 pm. 3982 24th. 285-4068.

**Dec. 12:** Supervisor-Elect Scott Wiener invites all to the annual City Hall OPEN HOUSE, 2 to 5 pm. Room 268, 1 Or. Carlton B. Goodlett Place.

**Dec. 12:** The San Francisco Choral Society presents its FESTIVAL OF CAROLS, including an audience singalong. 3 pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin. 221-9950; [sfchoral.org](http://sfchoral.org).

**Dec. 13:** Look for SANTA at Phoenix Books between 5 and 7 pm. 3957 24th. 821-3477.

**Dec. 13:** Political expert Prof. Gerald Heather discusses the Nov. 2 election at the ODD MONOAYS series at the Noe Valley. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

**Dec. 13:** "Ladies Night," the Monthly Rumpus hosted by STEPHEN ELLIOTT, features authors Kathleen Alcott, Julie Greicius, Antonia Crane, Sarah Fran Wisby, and Michelle Tea, a presentation by Lisa Brown, comedy by Janine Brito, music by the Yellow Oress, and free baked goods from Batter Bakery; age 21 and older. 7-9:30 pm. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd. [therumpus.net](http://therumpus.net).

**Dec. 15:** The BLINKYBUG creator signs

his blinkybug book and kits. 5-7 pm. Just for Fun, 3982 24th. 285-4068.

**Dec. 15:** A BOOK DISCUSSION group at the Noe Valley Library meets from 7 to 8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707.

**Dec. 15:** Professor John Oillon discusses "MEOIEVAL ASTRONOMY" at the Randall Museum. 7:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**Dec. 16:** SANTA appears at Just for Fun, from 5 to 7 pm. 3982 24th. 285-4068.

**Dec. 16:** The SF Arts Commission hosts a free workshop for artists interested in PUBLIC ART projects. 5:30-7 pm. 25 Van Ness. 252-3215.

**Dec. 16:** The SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS hold a Winter Solstice Party. 7:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 841-9456; [sf-scottish-dancers.org](http://sf-scottish-dancers.org).

**Dec. 16 & Jan. 20:** The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7-8:30 pm. Chase Bank Conference Room, 2112 15th. 437-9414; [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org).

**Dec. 17:** The Urban Nest hosts TEATIME, featuring Tea Forté products. 3-6 pm. 3927 24th. 341-0116.

**Dec. 17:** SANTA comes to Small Frys from 5 to 7 pm. 4066 24th. 648-3954.

**Dec. 17 & 18:** A Wild Winter FAMILY OVERNIGHT at the SF Zoo features guided tours and a chance to sleep in the Great Hall. 6 pm Friday to 10 am Saturday. Sloat at the Great Highway. Preregistration required: 753-7080; [sfzoo.org](http://sfzoo.org).

**Dec. 18:** Taste CHAMPAGNE at Rabat (4001 24th, 3-7 pm), try Whole Foods and Bernie's treats at Hill & Co. (3899 24th, 11 am-5 pm), and decorate COOKIES at Oroubi Team (4157 24th, 10:30 am-12:30 pm), courtesy of "24 HoliOAYS on 24th Street."

**Dec. 18:** Here comes SANTA CLAUS, to

Hill & Co. Real Estate, 11 am-5 pm; and a CABLE CAR Shuttle along 24th Street, noon to 4 pm. 3899 24th. 824-1100.

**Dec. 19:** The Men of St. Paul's host a PANCAKE BREAKFAST after the 8 and 9:15 am masses. Church at Valley. 648-7538.

**Dec. 19:** CIRCUS FINELLI performs a holiday show in the Noe Valley Ministry (Farmers Market) parking lot. 24th & Vicksburg. Noon-2 pm.

**Dec. 19:** The St. Francis Choir and Lafayette's Our Savior Lutheran Church Choir perform a concert of CHRISTMAS CAROLS. 3 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Market. 621-2635.

**Dec. 19:** The Mission Dolores Basilica presents its CANDLELIGHT Christmas Concert, featuring Handel's *Jubilate*. 5 pm. Dolores & 16th. 621-8203; [missiondolores.org](http://missiondolores.org).

**Dec. 20:** The PORCHLIGHT STORYTELLING series features "Family Secrets," with Nancy Grace, Oayvid Figler, Stephen "Partyball" OeZordo, Claudia Holm, Evan Karp, Sandy Salas, and hosts Arline Klatte and Beth Lisick. 8 pm. Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa. 863-2108.

**Dec. 21:** FILMS for children age 5 and under, and their families, screen at 10:15 and 11 am; park strollers by the elevator. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**Dec. 21:** Jamie Chan leads a crafts program, Needle Felted ORNAMENTS, for ages 8 and older. 4-5 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**Dec. 23-26:** KUNG PAO KOSHER COMEDY presents a benefit show, starring Wendy Liebman, Joe Nguyen, Nathan Habib, and Lisa Geduldig. Thurs. & Sun., 5 & 8:30 pm; Fri. & Sat., 6 & 9:30 pm. New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific. 522-3737; [koshercomedy.com](http://koshercomedy.com).

# JANUARY

**Jan. 5:** The group Parents for PUBLIC SCHOOLS holds a workshop for adults, "Parents Transforming Schools." 6:30-8 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; [info@ppssf.org](mailto:info@ppssf.org).

**Jan. 8:** The Museum of Craft and Design offers a SOUND INSTRUMENTS workshop for ages 6 to 12. 3-4:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 1 Jose Sarria Court (16th & Market). 355-5616; [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org).

**Jan. 8:** The Glen Park Library hosts a class, "Unlocking the Secrets of Your LIBRARY CARO." 4-5 pm. 2825 Oia-mond. 355-2858.

**Jan. 8:** Ramblin' Jack Elliott gives the final Noe Valley Ministry performance of the NOE VALLEY MUSIC SERIES, which continues at St. Cyprian's Church, Turk and Lyon. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; [noevalleymusicseries.com](http://noevalleymusicseries.com).

**Jan. 8:** HONKY-TONK Showdown #6 features the Whisky Richards, 77 el Deora, and the Bootcuts. 9 pm. Café du Nord, 2170 Market. 861-5016.

**Jan. 9 & Feb. 6:** Paxton Gate offers a TERRARIUM WORKSHOP at Curiosities for Kids. 11 am-1 pm. 766 Valencia. 824-1872; [paxtongate.com](http://paxtongate.com).

**Jan. 13:** A new introductory session of SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING starts at the Polish Club. 8-10 pm. 3040 22nd. 841-9456; [sf-scottishdancers.org](http://sf-scottishdancers.org).

**Jan. 14-16:** The second annual GERMAN GEMS film fest at the Castro features new films with English subtitles. 429 Castro. 695-0864.

**Jan. 15:** Attend a comedy fundraiser for Rocket Dog Rescue, "PAWS for Laughter," starring Jeff Applebaum, Steven Pearl, Cyhna Luff, and others. 8 pm. Bldg O, Fort Mason. 994-5335; [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).

**Jan. 17:** "Looking Backwards and Forwards on MARTIN LUTHER KING's Legacy" features poets Robert Chrisman

and Jeanne Powell. 7:30 pm; no-host dinner Haystack Pizza, 6 pm (RSVP [jlsender@webtv.net](mailto:jlsender@webtv.net)). Odd Mondays at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez 282-2317.

**Jan. 20:** Ouitsmart director Lori Feldman leads a QUIT SMOKING workshop, beginning at 5:30 pm. 3884 24th. Call to confirm. 285-9770.

**Jan. 20:** UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meets at 7:30 pm in the Upper Noe Rec Center. Oay & Sanchez. 285-0473.

**Jan. 21:** Megan Brown of Edward Jones Investments discusses "Tax-Free INVESTING: It's Not What You Make, It's What You Keep." 10 am. 4190 24th. 282-4079.

**Jan. 25:** Joel Pomerantz discusses the UNDERGROUND WATERWAYS of San Francisco at the SF History Association meeting. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. [sanfranciscohistory.org](http://sanfranciscohistory.org), 750-9986.

**Jan. 27:** Learn to mount beetles and butterflies at Paxton Gate's INSECT-MOUNTING CLASS. 4-7 pm. 824 Valencia. Advance registration required: 824-1872; [paxtongate.com](http://paxtongate.com).

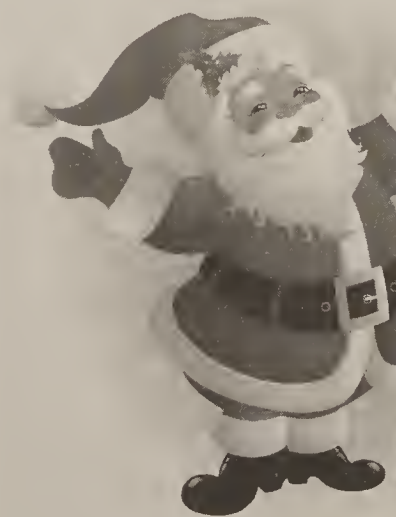
**Jan. 27:** A new SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE class for youth (7.5 and older) and families starts at the Polish Club. 3040 22nd. 841-9456; [sf-scottishdancers.org](http://sf-scottishdancers.org).

**Jan. 30:** Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC features the International Orange Chorale performing new work by composers Milton Babbitt, Joshua Sualle, and Oavid Harris. 4 pm. Holy Innocents

## 2011: A Voice Odyssey

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the February 2011 issue, hitting the streets as close to Feb. 1 as we can get it. The deadline for Calendar items is **Jan. 15**. Email [calendar@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:calendar@noevalleyvoice.com) or write Calendar, *Noe Valley Voice*, P.O. Box 460249, SF, CA 94146. Note: Events in Noe Valley receive priority. Thanks for all your help in 2010. Happy holidays.

## Santa arrives early on 24th Street this year



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SAT  
DEC  
4

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From new spins on classic recipes including chocolate-chip cookies and brownies, to delectable cookies to make with kids, this master conjurer of sweets will bring bliss to every dessert table.

THRS  
DEC  
9

EDIBLE HOLIDAY GIFT WORKSHOP! • 6-7 P.M.  
Join liqueur-maker Sean Timberlake, cheese-maker Nicole Kramer, and author of *D.I.Y. Delicious*, Vanessa Barrington for a hands-on workshop on making your own edible and drinkable holiday treats. \$15 per person; reservations required.

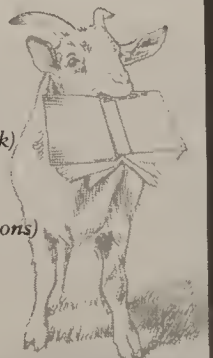
SAT  
DEC  
11

JESSICA THEROUX • COOKING WITH ITALIAN GRANDMOTHERS • 3-4 P.M. • FREE • Grandmothers across Italy invited Theroux into their kitchens, allowing her to record a smart selection of unique and utterly appealing dishes that will leave readers of all backgrounds yearning for an Italian grandmother in the family lineage.

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Tyler Florence (*Tyler Florence Family Meal*)  
Amanda Hesser (*The Essential New York Times Cook Book*)  
Diana Kennedy (*Oaxaca al Gusto*)  
Madhur Jaffrey (*At Home with Madhur Jaffrey*)  
Matt Lewis & Renato Poliafito (*Baked & Baked Explorations*)  
Rene Redzepi (*Noma Nordic Cuisine*)  
David Tanis (*Heart of the Artichoke*)  
Margo True (*The Sunset Cookbook*)  
Barbara Fairchild (*Bon Appetit Desserts*)



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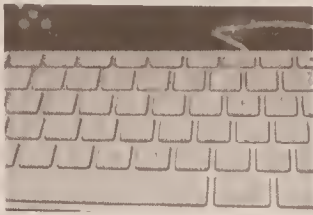
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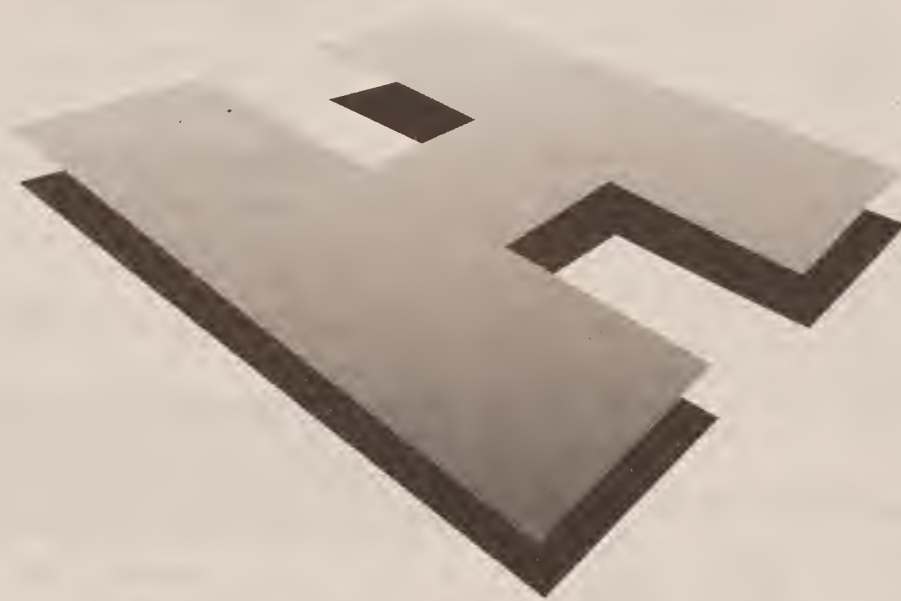


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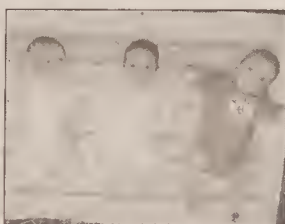
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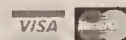
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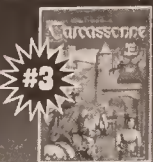
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## Schools Give Us Their Wish Lists

Last month, the *Voice* asked neighborhood public schools to send us their wish lists for the holidays, just in case Santa had a hard time finding their chimneys. Like Dancer and Prancer, teachers at Mission Education Center and Fairmount School were quick to bound in. Then, in a twinkling came Alvarado and James Lick.

When we surveyed their lists, we were amazed at the variety of wishes—from colored pencils and packing tape to a life-sized skeleton. Many of the small items would make excellent stocking stuffers, we thought. Others we might even find cluttering our basements.

Please take a look and see if anything you have but don't want can go to a school that doesn't have but wants. Of course, buying a few of the needed supplies would also be a perfect way to give!

### MISSION EDUCATION CENTER (K-5) 1670 Noe Street 415-695-5313

**Supplies:** new toothbrushes and toothpaste, electric pencil sharpeners, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizers, boxes of tissue, Ziploc storage bags, napkins

**Gardening equipment:** garden gloves (adult and kid sizes), hand trowels, two rectangular rakes, seeds and starts, wheelbarrow, pots for small plants

**Art supplies:** color dry-erase markers, colored pencils, oil pastel paints, exterior primer and house paint (for painting murals), ceramic tiles, drop cloths and buckets, gently used art supplies, T-shirts, socks, and sweatshirts, fabric glue, yarn, material, and sequins

**Music supplies:** 10 music stands, music folders for 60 students

**Library needs:** two rolls 2-inch packing tape, three boxes Ziploc freezer bags (large), a self-inking stamp for library books, 70 yards of adhesive sandpaper

**Big-ticket requests:** a ceramic kiln; transportation to Marin Headlands for 100 children for an April 15 field trip, paid for by the Headlands Institute

### FAIRMOUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 65 Chenery Street 415-695-5669

**Supplies:** Epson printer ink, black #T0481 and color #T048220, Expo® black low-odor dry-erase markers, cardstock (white and different colors), manual heavy-duty three-hole punch, two-hole punch, electric pencil sharpeners, spiral notebooks, disinfectant wipes, boxes of tissue, Band Aids, broom, dustpan

**Odds and ends:** chapter books in Spanish like the Magic Tree House series (La Casa del Arbor), award ribbons, three-hole-punch folders

**Big-ticket request:** 100 pedometers

### ALVARADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 625 Douglass Street 415-695-5695

**Supplies:** Expo® black low-odor dry-erase pens, #2 Ticonderoga pencils, white copier paper (8.5 x 11)

**Odds and ends:** vacuums, area rugs 8 x 10  
**Recess equipment:** basketballs, kickballs, tetherballs and volleyballs, jump ropes, hula hoops and chalk, including spray chalk or inverted marking chalk.

**Volunteers:** for tutoring, for composting at lunch, for playing with children at recess, and to install wall mounts for televisions.

**Big-ticket requests:** Microscopes, full-size human skeleton

### JAMES LICK MIDDLE SCHOOL 1220 Noe Street 415-695-5675

**Supplies:** Colored paper, erasable white boards (8 x 10), Expo® black low-odor dry-erase pens

**Odds and ends:** Purple school chairs

**Big-ticket requests:** Mac Mobile Lab laptop station; new or nearly new computers (Mac or PCs)

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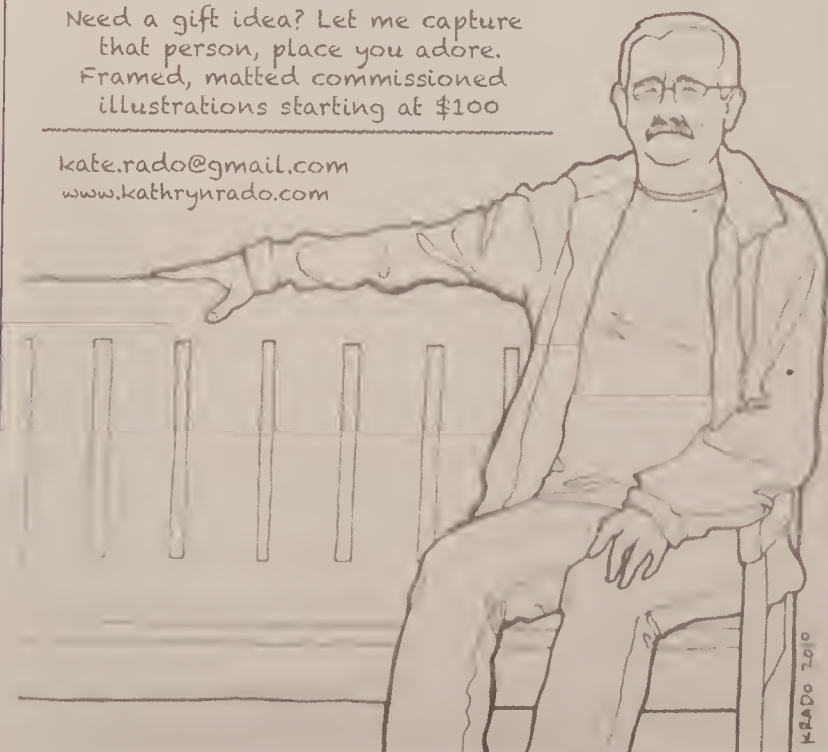
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## Local Author Draws on Childhood to Write a Book on Gay Adoption

By Heather World

When James LaCroce decided to write a book that would speak to gay families with adopted children, while appealing to anyone who has ever felt like a misfit, the Noe Valley psychologist turned to someone who had soothed him over the years, an illustrated chimpanzee he created with a friend in college.

"He was a character that endured a lot of stress in his life, but he was always resilient," says LaCroce, whose richly colored illustrations match the upbeat theme of his 74-page paperback.

*Chimpy Discovers His Family* is the story of an orphaned chimpanzee who prefers giving himself banana facials to having banana food fights with his fellow primates. He is shunned by the other animals because of his differences, until he meets Juan and Benji, gay men honey-mooning on the island where Chimpy



Psychologist James LaCroce is not just monkeying around in his new children's book about a chimpanzee. He also hopes to advance the cause of gay parenting. Photo by Pamela Gerard

relationship is, so long as they are committed to each other and they can love the child the way they are," says LaCroce, 36.

The book is targeted to children ages 6 to 12, but it's great for people of all ages, says LaCroce. The Maryland native has lived on High Street off Clipper Street since 2001, practicing psychology and volunteering at a children's mental health center in the Mission. He has worked with children adopted by gay parents and gay parents who have adopted children, but he was also inspired to write the book by the shop talk of his partner, an editor with the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"I have contact from him about news about gay issues, like adoption and marriage," LaCroce says. "That is a lot of the reason I wanted to do something political."

He also took a page from his own childhood, which was difficult and awkward, he says.

"I never did stuff the other boys did," he says. "I gravitated more to art and drama—things seen as more gay."

The youngest of five children in a Roman Catholic family, LaCroce grew up hiding his sexuality from his family and his peers.

"My coming out was delayed because it would have been really unsafe for me,"

he says. He dealt with his stress through drawing, and by college he and a friend were swapping illustrated exploits of Chimpy the chimpanzee.

LaCroce's book started as a back-story to Chimpy's life, but the result is some-

thing he hopes will resonate with the next round of soldiers in the battle for gay rights.

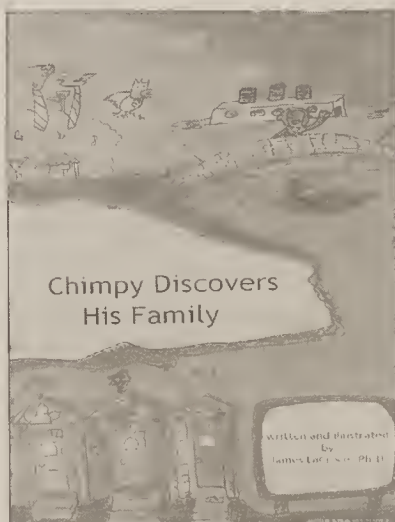
He has passed the book on to friends for literary criticism, and so far the reviews have been positive, he says.

"They like the angle—it's not just about getting adopted," says LaCroce, who looks forward to having children someday. "It's also about being accepted."

LaCroce has made part of his life's work helping "misfits" of a different kind as well. He works at Oakes Children Center on Treat Avenue, which serves mostly students from San Francisco's public schools who have debilitating behavior and emotional problems. LaCroce interned there while working toward his doctorate degree, and now he trains other interns.

"There's a lot of behavior that is in your face," he says. "I'm teaching them to look past that to their needs."

True to his misfit theme, LaCroce bypassed commercial publishers and published *Chimpy* himself. The paperback is available at Lulu.com and Amazon.com, but LaCroce says he will also be sending it to publishers in the next few months to see if he can find a "more traditional" home for his beloved ape. ■



lives. The men love Chimpy for his unique tastes and decide to adopt him. But the three quickly learn that the world finds them odd, and the trio must overcome prejudices and great distances to become a loving family.

"I wanted to write a story that addresses the fact it doesn't matter what gender your parents are or what their re-

### From *Chimpy Discovers His Family* by James LaCroce

Hey, you! Welcome to my story. I may look successful now, but my life started off a bit differently. I can't remember my birth family. I grew up on an island where baby chimpanzees who have lost their families live. As far back as I can remember, I was always different from the other chimps on the island. I liked picking flowers. No one else cared about flowers. I also enjoyed lounging by the stream and sipping cold drinks. I even put little umbrellas in them to make them fancier. No one else did this either.

The other chimps used to scream at me. They said that I acted weird. Tears flowed from behind my sunglasses. After a while, I just closed my eyes and pretended that I was far away.

At night I dreamed of traveling to far-off places. I dreamed of flying into space and visiting distant planets. I loved to dream. I was pretty lucky to have a few nice friends to feed and take care of me. Charlie was a very friendly person. His voice always made me feel happy.

Excerpted from *Chimpy Discovers His Family*, copyright © 2010 by James LaCroce, Ph.D.

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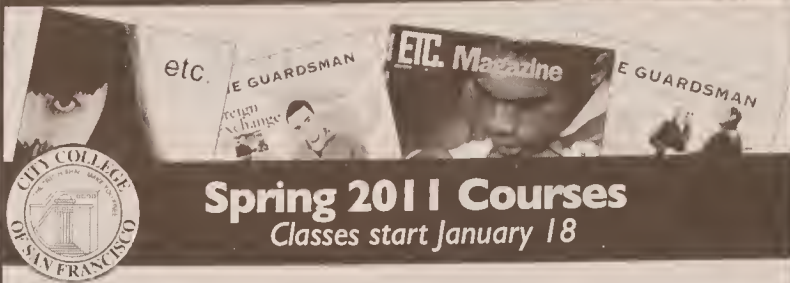
"Arson in the Mission, a Hatfield-McCoy feud, the nasty dock strike of 1934, kinky sex...and a protagonist with a dilemma many San Franciscans can appreciate. He and his wife want to trade their newly renovated but small house on Fair Oaks St. for something larger in Noe Valley, but the sale of their Victorian cottage won't net enough to allow the family to move up the hill." — *Noe Valley Voice*

"Michael Castleman's riveting page-turners get your attention like someone tossing a Molotov cocktail through your window, and they hold your attention through a roller coaster ride of plots and subplots that will keep you up and reading way past your bedtime. On top of that, his skill at interweaving his plot line with the nuances of San Francisco's rich history is a real joy. In *A Killing in Real Estate*, he takes us back to the height of the Depression, when a dock strike turned into a general strike of enormous proportions, then lets us in on a family feud born of that era, but which has simmered to this day. I can't wait to read what sort of trouble protagonist Ed Rosenberg gets himself into in Castleman's fourth in this series." — *Bill Yenne, author of San Francisco Then & Now*

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3 units	T	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 217	Graham

#### Jour 21: News Writing and Reporting

3 units	M/W/F	10:00-11:00 a.m.	HC 213	Gonzales
3 units	T	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 218	Rochmis

#### Jour 22: Feature Writing

3 units	W	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 217	Graham
3 units	R	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 218	Rochmis

#### Jour 23: Electronic Copy Editing

3 units	W	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 218	Rochmis
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#### Jour 24: Newspaper Laboratory

3 units	M/W/F	12:00-1:00 p.m.	BNGL 214	Gonzales
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#### Jour 25: Editorial Management

3 units	M/W/F	1:00-2:00 p.m.	BNGL 214	Gonzales
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#### Jour 29: Magazine Editing and Production

3 units	M	6:30-8:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 217	Graham
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#### Jour 31: Internship Experience

2 units	Exp	Hours Arr	BNGL 214	Gonzales
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#### Jour 37: Intro. to Photojournalism

3 units	W	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1125 Valencia St. 211	Lifland
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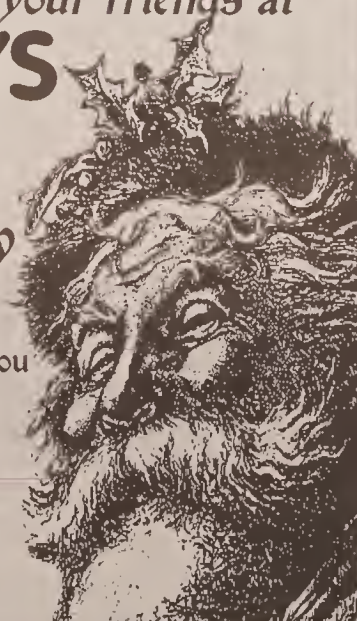
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## Winter Wonderland at The Library

By Susan Higgins, Adult Librarian  
Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library

December offers plenty of chances to increase your stress levels: holiday parties, family gatherings, travel on crowded roads, lines at airports, and the risk of spending lots of money. How can a trip to your local library make you feel better? Stop by and borrow some books that will help soothe your nerves and calm your mind.

On the topic of money, have you con-

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### Jungle Joe Puppets

On Saturday, Dec. 11, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., popular ventriloquist and puppeteer Jungle Joe will present his "Animal Trainer Show," a creative, interactive event for children of all ages.

#### Toddler Tuesday

The Noe Valley Library sponsors **Toddler Tales**—stories, rhymes, movement, and music—on Tuesdays, Dec. 7, 14, and 28, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., and from 11 to 11:30 a.m. The program is aimed at children 18 months to three years old, but all ages are welcome. On the third Tuesday of the month—Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 10:15 and 11 a.m.—the library hosts **Family Films**, short films based on picture books.

#### A Book Club Invite

The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group welcomes new members to its monthly meetings. The next gathering will be on Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Drop-ins welcome.

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library, 451 Jersey Street between Castro and Diamond streets. Call 355-5707 for information. Please park strollers by the elevator.

## MORE BOOKS TO READ

sidered how much you'll save if you borrow books, movies, and music from the library? If you borrow one book or audiotape a month instead of buying it, you could easily save \$200 or more per year. Another money-saving strategy is to try before you buy. Before purchasing that new cookbook or how-to book on gardening, borrow it from the library to make sure it's really something you want to add to your permanent collection.

For the kids, it's a great time to read books that will enhance the family's enjoyment of the winter season. In addition to many stories about specific holidays, the library has books that will introduce young children to their first snow (even if San Francisco can't). Older readers can find fiction with winter themes and nonfiction books about snow sports.

#### Stress Reduction for Adults

Reduce your anxiety and relax with the audio CD version of *Wherever You Go, There You Are: Mindfulness Meditation in Everyday Life*, by Jon Kabat-Zinn.

Frank Lipman, founder and director of New York's Eleven Eleven Wellness Center, presents a program for beating fatigue based on improving eating and exercise habits, in *Spent: End Exhaustion and Feel Great Again*.

*Beating Stress, Anxiety, and Depression: Groundbreaking Ways to Help You Feel Better*, by Jane Plant and Janet Stephenson, explores new methods for the prevention and treatment of stress.

The audio CD *Conquer Stress: Meditations to Take You From Tension to Tranquility*, by K.R.S. Edstrom, offers a series of short programs designed to fit into busy schedules.

*Healing Your Family History: Five Steps to Break Free of Destructive Patterns*, by emotional wellness counselor

Rebecca Linder Hmtze, recommends steps for healing family dysfunction.

#### Just for Teens

*Chill: Stress-Reducing Techniques for a More Balanced, Peaceful You*, by Deborah Reber, provides friendly advice for overscheduled teens.

*Stress 101: An Overview for Teens*, by Margaret O. Hyde and Elizabeth H. Forsyth, is an informative book that helps teens understand what stress is and offers self-help tools for reducing its effects.

Mental tricks, breathing exercises, spa treatments, and other natural remedies are the focus of *Girl in a Funk: Quick Stress Busters (and Why They Work)*, by Tanya Napier and Jen Kollmer.

#### Picture Stories for Reading Aloud to Young Children

A young rabbit discovers a world covered in white in *Danny's First Snow* by Leonid Gore.

Mouse tries sledding, skating, and building a snow house in *Mouse's First Snow* by Lauren Thompson.

A mother cat makes caps and mittens for her kittens in the bedtime story *Knitty Kitty* by David Elliott.

A mole ventures off into his first snow and mistakes an icicle for a diamond in *Diamond in the Snow* by Jonathan Emmett.

The classic 1963 Caldecott Award winner *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats is still a winter favorite.

#### Fiction for Older Children

Beginning readers will enjoy the story of Freddy facing off against Max the bully in the school snowshoe race in *Ready, Set, Snow!* by Abby Klein.

Truck lovers who are just beginning to read can delve into *Snow Trucking!* by Jon Scieszka.

One line of text per page plus repetitive vocabulary makes *Tiny the Snow Dog* by Cari Meister a great choice for very early readers.

In *Brian's Winter* by Gary Paulsen, a 13-year-old boy is forced to survive a harsh winter alone in the Canadian woods.

*Snow, Snow: Winter Poems for Children* offers crisp, icy poems by Jane Yolen accompanied by Jason Stemple's beautiful nature photographs.

Savannah sprains her ankle on her first day at a cabin in the snow in *Snowfall Surprise* by Jane B. Mason and Sarah Hines Stephens.

#### Winter Sports

*Blades, Boards, and Scooters* by Keltie Thomas explores the history and science behind snowboards, skateboards, and inline skates, and offers tips for safety and maintenance.

Clive Gifford describes the best equipment choices and basic-through-advanced techniques for children in *Snowboarding*.

Learn about popular and lesser-known Olympic sports and athletes in *Freeze Frame: a Photographic History of the Winter Olympics*, by Sue Macy with a foreword by Peggy Fleming.

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Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library  
1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
12-6	10-9	12-9	10-6	1-6	1-6	

Glen Park Branch Library  
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Mission Branch Library  
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**My Ancient P.C., Running Windows 98** on a dial-up, is having serious problems, and I think it's time to let it go. Does anyone have a not-too-old Mac laptop they'd be willing to donate? Please call Gene Gerrior at 415-242-4326.

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## The Voice website

has news and photos from the current issue, and searchable archives dating back to 1996.

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**10 for 10 discount:** The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the **February 2012** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of February. **The deadline for Class Ads is Jan. 15.** The issue will be displayed for one month at [www.noevalleyvoice.com](http://www.noevalleyvoice.com).

Advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of their ad (not to exceed one line) will be set in hold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refunds are not granted unless we have made an error. We appreciate your support.

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## On 24th Street

*If Noe Valley had a town square, what would you like to see in it?*

Voice reporter Shayna Rubin asked the question Oct. 22 in front of the Farmers Market on 24th Street at Vicksburg.



**Matt Gubiotti, 25th Street:** For a town square, I would love to see plenty of seating, so we can sit outside with some coffee. Also, maybe some tables with chessboards.



**Laura Bergmann, 30th Street:** A community garden would be great. I would also like to see some grass for kids to play on. Our neighborhood also needs some community recycling and compost bins. It would also be cool to have a concert series with local performers.



**Leslie Fleming, 26th Street:** I would like to see some benches and a place to gather. We come here every week for the Farmers Market, so I would like to see a place for the Farmers Market to be.



**Gentry Clements, Clipper Street:** I would love to see more grass and a nice seating area with tables. Also a nice place for kids to run around would be great. There is already too much concrete, so some more green would be good.



**Dan Polk, 25th Street:** A garden would be nice. A place people go sit in. Also a stage with live, acoustic music on Fridays or Sundays. My kids would enjoy a performance.



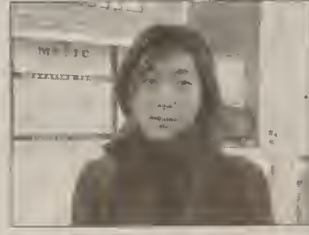
**Nancy O'Malley, 25th Street:** I would like the Farmers Market to stay here. Maybe a kids playground would be good, there are a lot of kids here. We also need some more benches, trees, gardens, and flowers around here. A stage for bands would also be nice.



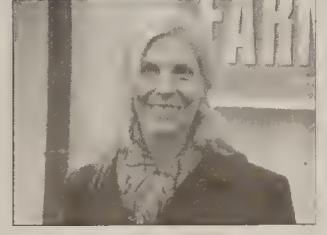
**Brooke Dean, Chattanooga Street:** I like art and design, so maybe an art and design fair, so local artists can share. I would love to see locally produced and presented events. I'm kid-oriented, so if there were a sculpture as a place for kids to play on, that would be nice. Art would be a nice contribution to a town square.



**Chris Myers, 26th Street:** I would like to see something green in a town square, like grass and trees or some type of landscaping. I would like to see some sort of seating area as well. It would be nice to have some benches and a playground.



**Constance Choi, Church Street:** I would like to see structures that make it a gathering place for people of all walks of life. Some organic and urban structures would make it pleasant. We need something that shows the synthesis of city life and how it can be integrated with plant life. Other places are industrialized. I would like us to integrate trees and create more open spaces.

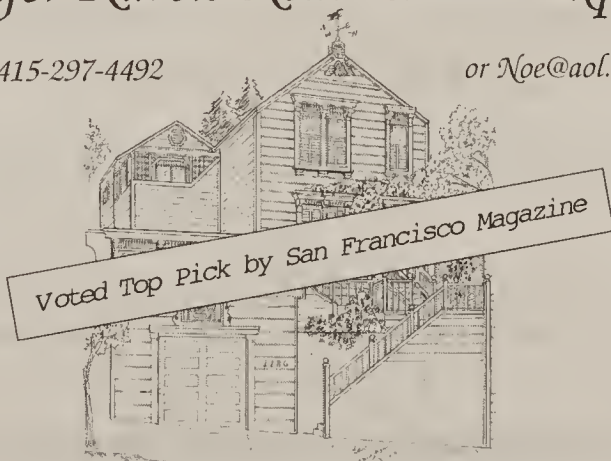


**Karen Michels, Diamond Street:** I would love to see a permanent farmers market. A community garden would be great. I would also love to see a sitting area.

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Sponsor: Merchants of Upper Market & Castro; [www.CastroMerchants.com](http://www.CastroMerchants.com)

**Diamond Heights Community Association**  
Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

**Dolores Heights Improvement Club**  
Email: [dliic123@gmail.com](mailto:dliic123@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.doloresheights.org](http://www.doloresheights.org)  
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually.

**Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)**  
Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Eureka Valley Promotion Association**  
Contact: Scott Wiener, 437-9414  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs); 7:30 p.m.  
Website: [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org)

**Fair Oaks Neighbors**  
Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362  
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

**Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: Gregg Brooks  
Email: [sflyric@yahoo.com](mailto:sflyric@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Email for details.

## MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

**Friends of Billy Goat Hill**  
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[www.friendsofbillygoathill.blogspot.com](http://www.friendsofbillygoathill.blogspot.com)

**Friends of Dolores Park Playground**  
Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774  
Email: [emerr@earthlink.net](mailto:emerr@earthlink.net)  
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Email for information.

**Friends of Glen Canyon Park**  
Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Courts Playground**  
Contact: Laura Norman  
Email: [lauranor@yahoo.com](mailto:lauranor@yahoo.com)  
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

**Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)**  
Contact: Richard May, 298-2344  
Website: [www.friendsofnoevalley.com](http://www.friendsofnoevalley.com)  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146  
Meetings: Occasional (call to confirm); at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

**Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center**  
Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845  
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

**Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park**  
Contact: Alexandra Torre  
Email: [noe\\_park@atorre.com](mailto:noe_park@atorre.com)  
Website: [www.noevalleyrecreation.com](http://www.noevalleyrecreation.com)  
Meetings: Email or check website.

**Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association**  
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119  
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

**Noe Screenwriting Group**  
Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310  
Email: [kendall@microcounsel.com](mailto:kendall@microcounsel.com)  
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.  
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**Noe Valley Association-24th Street Community Benefit District**  
Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093  
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call Ron Atwood, 509-1097.  
Email: [info@noevalleyassociation.org](mailto:info@noevalleyassociation.org).

**Noe Valley Democratic Club**  
Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838  
Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.  
Parking available in lot off Elizabeth. Call to confirm meeting dates.

**Noe Valley Farmers' Market**  
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Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332  
Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

**Noe Valley Joggers**  
Contact: Gwen Sanderson, 509-6261  
Email: [gwenlife@earthlink.net](mailto:gwenlife@earthlink.net)  
Meetings: Monday and Wednesday at 8 a.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. for 30-minute run/walk exercise. Meet at 23rd and Diamond.

**Noe Valley Library Campaign**  
Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, [kkdrew@yahoo.com](mailto:kkdrew@yahoo.com); Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103  
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

**Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)**  
Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8687  
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Website: [www.NoValleyMerchants.com](http://www.NoValleyMerchants.com)

**Noe Valley Parent Network**  
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Contact: Mina Kenvin  
Email: [minaken@gmail.com](mailto:minaken@gmail.com)

**Noe Valley Preparedness Committee**  
Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536  
Email: [mfasulis@yahoo.com](mailto:mfasulis@yahoo.com)  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Outer Noe Valley Merchants**  
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

**Residents for Noe Valley Town Square**  
Contact: Todd David, 401-0625  
Email: [toddsvdavid@gmail.com](mailto:toddsvdavid@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.noevalleytownsquare.com](http://www.noevalleytownsquare.com)  
Meetings: Call for details.

**San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets**  
Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188  
Email: [contact@sanjoseguerrero.com](mailto:contact@sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Website: [www.sanjoseguerrero.com](http://www.sanjoseguerrero.com)  
Meetings: See website.

**SafeCleanGreen Mission Dolores**  
Contact: Gideon Kramer, 861-2480  
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Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com>

**Upper Noe Neighbors**  
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### I'll Be Noe for Christmas

By Mazook

**EXERCISING OUR FRANCHISE:** You will be glad to know the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation has ferreted out the final results of the Nov. 2 election, specifically the votes cast by the citizens of Noe Valley.

According to results tabulated by the San Francisco Department of Elections, Noe Valley has 16,208 registered voters, and of those, 11,781 actually voted in the election. That's a 72.7 percent turnout, which ranked us number three among neighborhoods in the city.

As for the competition, 75 percent voted in Diamond Heights (with 6,989 registered voters), giving it the largest neighborhood turnout. Second was Upper Market/Eureka Valley, where 73.3 percent of the 18,654 registered voters cast ballots. Citywide turnout was much lower, 61 percent.

In the California governor's race, Jerry Brown took 88 percent of the Noe vote, with Meg Who, I mean Whitman, getting only 9.6 percent. The newly elected lieutenant governor, Gavin Newsom, captured 84 percent of our vote (vs. 10 percent for the incumbent, Abel Maldonado).

As expected, Democrat Nancy Pelosi, running for California's District 8 seat in the U.S. House, handily defeated her opponent John Dennis, scoring 87 percent to his 13 percent in Noe Valley. Barbara Boxer garnered 90 percent of the Noe vote to win her Senate seat, with Carly

Fiorina eke-ing out just 9 percent.

You also might be interested in the Noe Valley votes on a few state and local propositions. Prop. 19, which would have legalized marijuana in California, won here: 76 percent said yes, 24 percent no. However, it failed statewide.

Prop. 21 to establish an \$18 car tax for state parks passed here by an 8 to 3 margin (failed statewide). A whopping 91 percent of us voted against Prop. 23, which would have suspended implementation of the state's air pollution controls (failed statewide, too). But, though 82 percent of us Valleyans said no to a measure requiring that certain state and local fees be approved by a two-thirds vote (Prop. 26), it passed statewide.

In San Francisco measures, 70 percent of us favored Prop. AA, which added a \$10 annual vehicle registration fee to fund transportation projects like street repairs; it passed by 59 percent citywide. Fifty-nine percent of Noe Valley voted against Prop. B, which would have made city workers pay more for their health and retirement plans (57 percent said no citywide).

While 52 percent of us voted against city Prop. L, which now restricts sitting or lying on the sidewalk, the measure passed citywide, with 54 percent saying yea to 46 nay. Where is that two-thirds vote when we need it?



**YOU MAY ALREADY BE A WIENER:** The winner in the District 8 supervisor race is Scott Wiener. (Apparently Wiki-Leaks leaked this—see *Voice* story on page 11.)

But here are the Numbers Behind the News, for all you accountants and political junkies.

In Noe Valley, Wiener got 43.3 percent of the vote, Rafael Mandelman 33.9 percent, Rebecca Prozan 13.9 percent, and Bill Hemenger 5.1 percent.

The Diamond Heights vote was 61 percent for Wiener, 31.4 percent Mandel-

man, 23.8 percent Prozan, and 10.5 percent Hemenger. In Upper Market/Eureka Valley, it was Wiener 43.3 percent, Mandelman 34.2 percent, Prozan 17.8 percent, and Hemenger 4 percent.

District-wide, Wiener had just over 42 percent, Mandelman almost 36 percent, Prozan nearly 17 percent, and Hemenger just over 5 percent. After a round of ranked-choice voting, Wiener wound up with 55.4 percent, to Mandelman's 44.6 percent.

"I am quite happy that I did well and got broad support throughout the district," says Wiener, who lives in Eureka Valley.

He lists as his Noe Valley priorities getting the town square on 24th Street, working with the Noe Valley Association (the self-taxing community benefit district) on improving the commercial corridor, and exploring new parking options, such as diagonal parking.

Wiener agrees that a big issue in Downtown Noe Valley is the fate of the long-vacant Real Food store, which most merchants and residents feel has become an eyesore. "I am going to meet with Bevan [Dufty] regarding this, and I have some ideas that I am not willing to discuss publicly at this time," he told the NVBI.

He says he is looking forward to appearing at the meetings of our various neighborhood groups. He also invites you to come visit him: "I will always maintain an open door at my office."

FYI, his chief aides will be Gillian Gillett and Adam Taylor.



**THE TOWN SQUARE** has gained the approval of the Park and Rec Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC). At the group's Nov. 3 meeting, members voted 11 to 1 to "advise the Rec and Park Commission to utilize the Open Space Fund to purchase the property," meaning the parking lot at 24th and Vicksburg streets, part-owned by the Noe Valley Ministry.

Four members of the Residents for Noe

Valley Town Square, including Todd David, Chris Keene, Erica Sweetman, and Michael Powell (the latter two are also with the Noe Valley Farmers Market), went to the meeting.

Chris Keene, who represents the Ministry, says the Town Square group has plans to attend the next regular Rec and Park Commission meeting (Jan. 6, 4 p.m., in Room 416 City Hall), where they will make their pitch for the commission's approval. If okayed, the proposal will go to the Board of Supervisors for a vote.

Keene says the price of the lot will be set by the San Francisco Appraisers Office, which currently gives the value as between \$3 million and \$4 million dollars—a pretty wide range. "Those numbers are within the comfort zone of the Ministry," he says.

The Residents are also meeting with Meredith Thomas (of the Neighborhood Parks Council) and Carlos Rivera (of Circle Bank on 24th Street) to open an es-crow account so that neighborhood residents or businesses can help fund the development of the space if and when it is purchased by the city.

You can keep up with the progress of this project by googling "Noe Valley Town Square."



**PRIDE OF THE PARKLETS:** The much ballyhooed parklets were installed on 24th Street by the city's Pavement to Parks program around the third week of November. There are two: one in front of Martha's coffee shop and the other at Just for Fun. Their tables, chairs, benches, and planters are already well occupied.

Here for a six-month trial, the parklets are being maintained by workers hired by the Noe Valley Association. The folks at Just for Fun and Martha's will bring out the furniture every morning and pull it all back into their stores in the evening.

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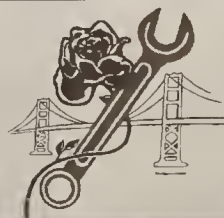
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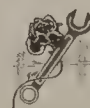
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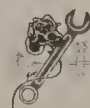
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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

During installation, “we had a great group of volunteers help us with the plants we put into each parklet,” says NVA executive director Debra Niemann, “and our maintenance crew is doing a good job watering the plants and keeping the area steam-cleaned.”

“People are using the parklet in front of our store a lot during lunch and drinking coffee,” says Just for Funner David Eiland. “And we are really excited about the parklets being used during the ‘24 HoliDAYS on 24th Street’ celebrations for the many music and entertainment events.”

From Dec. 1 to 24, there will be 28, yes 28 performances in the two parklets on 24th Street. “Having groups like the Mele Kalikimaka Hula Dance Group and the likes of [singer-songwriters] Jude Re-seigne, Lily Holbrook, Dennis Campagna, Anthony Cavazos, and Tom Huber performing in front of our store is just awesome,” Eiland says.

The full schedule of entertainment—including 46 music events, six special kids events, five visits from Santa Claus, 15 store events, several hayrides, a menorah lighting, and a cable car shuttle—is available on a flyer in most stores in Downtown Noe Valley. (Also see our story on page 15, and the *Voice* Calendar, page 30.)

By the way, thanks should go out to the sponsors of this year’s festivities, including the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, the (newly opened) Patxi’s Pizza, Zephyr Real Estate, Hill & Co., and the Noe Valley Association.

The NVA, and the 10 members serving on its board of directors, has an annual

budget of \$230,000, funded by a parcel tax on each of the 179 property owners in the 24th Street/Castro Street shopping area. The board has been quite active this year improving Main Street. They steered the Pavement to Parks process that brought us the parklets. Seven new benches were installed on 24th Street. Few people realize the NVA spends \$10,000 a month keeping 24th Street trash-free, maintaining the miniparks in the public parking lot and the Ministry parking lot, tending the many planters and flower baskets and trees, as well as regularly cleaning the Downtown Noe Valley sidewalks. The NVA sponsors, or co-sponsors—in addition to 24 HoliDAYS—the Harvest Festival, the Noe Courts Easter Egg Hunt, and the Summer Solstice.



**CLUE ME IN:** Over 200 people from all over the Bay Area descended on Noe Valley on the evening of Saturday Nov. 13, to participate in Alvarado Elementary School’s second annual Tech Search Party, a fundraising event for four schools.

Thirty-one teams, starting from James Lick Middle School on the corner of Noe and 25th, tried to find 10 locations in our valley, based on a single clue for each. Participants needed to have a smart phone in order to compete. Here are the clues and the answers:

1. “Abandon all hunger ye who enter here.” This is a reference to the inscription in Dante’s *Inferno*, which should lead you to the Dante Room at Incanto Restaurant on Church Street.

2. “Between Spike and Mike.” The answer was between Spike Lee and Mike Leigh, in the directors section of Video Wave on Castro.

3. “Pacemaker’s Home.” This would be Mersey Alley made famous in the song “Ferry Cross the Mersey” by Gerry and the Pacemakers.

4. “With a population of about

825,327, it’s not so little.” That’s the population of Chihuahua, Mexico, and the location of the answer was the Little Chihuahua Restaurant at 4123 24th Street.

5. “Home of Anna Alberi, almost.” That would be 815 Alvarado Street, the Dream House raffle winner.

6. “Noe Valley”

At the corner of Noe and Valley streets, where the Noe sign is over the Valley sign:

7. “Home of Deposed Warrior.” That led to Nellie Alley, referring to fired Warriors coach Don Nelson.

8. “35 + 48” refers to the corner of Diamond and 24th streets, where the 35 and 48 Muni lines intersect.

9. “MMMMCXXXV Horner Street.” That location would be 4135 23rd Street, which was originally named Horner Street.

10. “One scene all these films have in common: *Safety Last!*, *Project A*, *The 39 Steps*, *Thunderball*, *Shanghai Knights*, *The Great Mouse Detective*.” As you all know, these are famous clock scenes at Dorian Clair’s Clock Repair at 1301 Sanchez Street.

The top team, called 2+2=5, had the fastest total number of right answers. Second place went to the team Noe or Nice. It was followed by the Indomitable Immersion Mamas, Party of Five, and We Can’t Lose, We Got an iPhone.

According to hunt organizer Tim Smith, “just over \$17,000 was raised, and divided among the four participating schools. Alvarado has set aside its portion to complete the new computer implementation that was begun last year.”



**SHORT SHIRTS:** Say goodbye to DeLano’s Market over in Eureka Valley (18th and Collingwood). It will be closing its doors soon (along with the DeLano’s Market out on Geary Boulevard in the Richmond District). You might re-

member DeLano’s bought many of the Cala/Bell stores in San Francisco and Marin County, including Bell Market in Noe Valley. The landlord didn’t agree with the Noe Valley sale... Bell’s lease expired... Whole Foods moved in...

There were two bank robberies in Noe Valley last month: one at Wells Fargo and one at the Bank of America a week later. This month’s Police Beat has the details.

An orthodontist, Noe Valley Smiles and Braces, is building out the two stores GNC and Lisa Violette used to occupy (3934 and 3932 24th). Apple Blossom, the women’s clothing store at 1303 Castro near 24th, has closed. And Urban Cellars spirits store at 24th and Church has been evicted for failure to pay rent.



**RAMBLIN’ ROSE:** The Noe Valley Ministry is closing early next year, probably in March, for a two-year remodel. This means, among other things, that the famed Noe Valley Music Series will present its final show at the venue on Jan. 8, 2011. After 30 years at the Ministry, series producer Larry Kassin and crew will be moving the series to St. Cyprian’s Church at the corner of Turk and Lyon streets, where they’ll hold their events for at least the next two years. This last stand at the Ministry should be a great show, featuring folk/blues legend and 2010 Grammy Award winner Ramblin’ Jack Elliott. Ramblin’ Jack is expected to start twanging at 8:15 p.m.



**THAT’S THIRTY,** folks. Have happy HoliDAYS. See you all here for the February issue of your *Noe Valley Voice*. Ciao for now.



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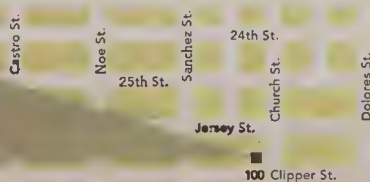
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